

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

6 February 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR All EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Congressional Notification

In my confirmation hearings I underscored my commitment to notify the appropriate Congressional committees of significant intelligence activities. I have reiterated this commitment on several subsequent occasions, and reaffirmed its importance to our mission. This is a statutory obligation that I take very seriously and one that requires a similar commitment from every employee of this Agency.

The National Security Act of 1947, as amended, imposes notification requirements on both the President and the Director of Central Intelligence. The President is required to ensure that the Intelligence Committees of the Congress are kept fully and currently informed of the intelligence activities of the United States, including significant anticipated intelligence activities and significant intelligence failures. The Act places a similar obligation on the Director of Central Intelligence. For all such notifications, the Act provides for mechanisms to protect classified information and intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosures.

Meeting these obligations goes to the heart of our relationship with the Congress. I expect to be held accountable on this point by the Congress and by the President. Neither the President nor I can meet our obligations without the active awareness and cooperation of all Agency employees.

Although the general requirement to notify the appropriate Congressional committees is clearly understood, past practice has indicated shortcomings in our understanding of what specific activities or events must be

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reported. To reduce any ambiguity, each directorate has now appointed Congressional focal point officers who are responsible and accountable for ensuring that components are aware of and abide by reporting requirements. In addition, a new Agency regulation (AR 7-2) soon will be issued that provides uniform standards and written guidance.

In concluding my confirmation remarks on this topic, I stressed the importance of keeping the Congressional committees fully and currently informed in order to gain their confidence and the confidence of the public. I repeat that message here. We as an Agency have no more important obligation. We also have an opportunity that we should not waste and which can be critical to our effectiveness in the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Deutch".

John Deutch  
Director of Central Intelligence

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