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REFER TO DOS

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 22, 1971

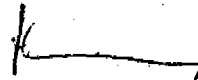
DOJ REVIEWED 15-Jan-2010: UNCLASSIFIED

NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter dated June 28, 1971, concerning the coordination of internal security matters. We are now reconsidering this question and your comments and suggestions will be most helpful.

Warm regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

Honorable John A. Mitchell  
The Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

DOS REVIEWED 02-Mar-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 14, 1971

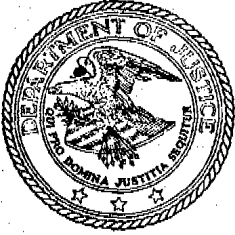
MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER  
FROM: A. R. ASH *ARASH*  
SUBJECT: U. S. Internal Security Matters

I suggest that you send the attached interim reply (TAB A) to the Attorney General in answer to his letter to you dated June 28 (TAB B).

Meanwhile I am re-staffing this matter for you. This is a re-submission by the Attorney General of his proposal made two years ago that (1) the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security be transferred back to the NSC from the Department of Justice and (2) the responsibility for coordination of U. S. internal security programs be removed from the Attorney General and placed back with the NSC. (During the Eisenhower administration the Committee was established as an NSC Committee, and the NSC provided policy guidance and coordination to the planning and conduct of the wide range of internal security programs. In 1962 President Kennedy transferred the Committee and the coordination function from the NSC to the Attorney General.)

Attachment.

30039



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C.

June 28, 1971

DOJ REVIEWED 15-Jan-2010: UNCLASSIFIED

NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE

Mr. Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
National Security Council  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

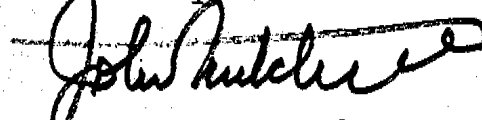
Dear Mr. Kissinger:

By letter dated March 3, 1969, and by memorandum dated January 21, 1970, I provided you with comments on National Security Action Memorandum 161. I recommended that it be rescinded, and the responsibility assigned thereunder to the Attorney General be returned to the National Security Council. I also indicated my belief that the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS) would operate more effectively under NSC jurisdiction.

I believe that there continues to be a need for the ICIS to coordinate all internal security programs in the Executive Branch, and that this could best be accomplished if the supervision of the Committee's coordinating responsibility were returned to the NSC. This would contribute substantially to the restoration of interest in the ICIS on the part of departments and agencies, and would establish better liaison and a greater exchange of information between the Council and the ICIS.

Accordingly, it is requested that you give consideration to this matter, and inform me of your decision.

Sincerely,

  
Attorney General