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PRECEDENCE

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FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 26
TO: PETER RODMAN FOR GEN. SCARFATT /
BRUSSELS

DTG

261902Z

INFO:

RELEASED BY: BID

TOR: 261930Z

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

TOHAK 26

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24 JUN 26 PM 3:19

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

SECRET/SENSITIVE
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June 26, 1974

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TO HAK 26

TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: DICK KENNEDY *DK*

General Walters sent this down at Mr. Colby's request.

The latter asked that it be sent back to ^{*Walters*} Kissinger with a note that
the letter has been cleared with Senators Stennis and McClellan.

Begin text:

(See attached)

End text.

Warm regards.

SECRET/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

24 June 1974

Honorable Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Chairman
Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This Agency is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Fred Thompson, Minority Counsel of the Select Committee, (copy enclosed) indicating it is the desire of the full Committee that this Agency submit to the Committee, no later than 27 June 1974, our recommendations with respect to the sanitization/declassification procedures which we have been conducting on various materials for the inclusion of part or all of these materials in the Committee's final report.

In his letter, Mr. Thompson says he assumed we were aware of the fact that all CIA-related transcripts, in the possession of Mr. George Murphy, of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy staff, were available for inspection by Agency representatives. I regret to say that we were not aware of such availability in view of earlier instructions from Mr. Thompson's staff that the Agency was not to have access to certain CIA-related transcripts. Mr. Thompson, on 21 June 1974, transmitted to us two such transcripts.


On 3 April 1974, I wrote Senator Baker (copy also enclosed) that I was, on that date, forwarding to Senator John Stennis and Senator John McClellan, the Chairmen of the Senate Armed Services and Senate Appropriations Committees, which have oversight responsibility for this Agency, my preliminary comments and suggested security deletions in

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We have reviewed the documents and the testimony of the Agency witnesses and made recommended deletions to sanitize such material if the Committee determines publication to be necessary. I would submit, however, that despite the minimal security deletions which we have recommended, publication of CIA documents and the testimony of CIA witnesses (which in many respects has no direct relation to the Committee's investigation) would do a great disservice to this Agency, to the Congress and to our national interest. If persons dealing with CIA on a confidential basis, both in this country and abroad, must assume that information they provide will be subject to later publication, valuable sources and methods of intelligence will be terminated or seriously impaired. I urgently request that the Committee give serious consideration to the need for the publication of those documents and the individual transcripts of those witnesses. If any part of this material is to be published I believe it should be strictly limited to that which is absolutely essential to support the findings in the Committee's report, and we offer to be of assistance to you in this regard.

I assure you of this Agency's continued cooperation with the Committee but I do point out that neither the Committee's investigation, nor the investigations of the Agency's four oversight Committees, the Federal Grand Jury, the Special Prosecutor, and currently the House Judiciary Committee, have developed the existence of any prior knowledge on the part of this Agency or its officials of the Watergate breakin or the breakin of Dr. Fielding's office. More importantly, however, I wish to personally assure you that my own intensive internal investigation has developed no relevant material beyond that provided to the above investigative bodies.

Sincerely,


W. E. Colby
Director

Enclosures

cc:

Senator Howard Baker
Senator John Stennis
Senator John McClellan

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 74-0589

3 April 1974

Honorable Howard H. Baker, Vice Chairman
Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Baker:

I have your letter of 1 April 1974 concerning the steps you propose be taken in connection with your report.

You suggested Agency action in two areas--a declassification/sanitization review, and submission of comments on the report. Unfortunately, neither can be completed by your deadline since, as you know, all of the relevant transcripts are not yet available. I have, however, prepared some preliminary comments which we may wish to expand upon when the additional material has been made available and we have had an opportunity to review it. As requested, I have also recommended certain security deletions from the report.

I am forwarding today to Senator John Stennis and Senator John McClellan, the Chairmen of the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, my preliminary comments and suggested security deletions in the report for such disposition as they feel appropriate. This procedure is in keeping with existing policy guidance and is consistent with your forwarding your report to them.

Sincerely,


W. E. Colby
Director

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