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MEMORANDUM

6302

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

Jeanne W. Davis *JWD*

SUBJECT:

President's Remarks on Intelligence  
for San Francisco World Affairs Council

We (Dick Ober, Les Janka and I) have reviewed the attached draft and suggest several changes, primarily to strengthen the position.

Mr. Rumsfeld's memo implies that Phil Buchen is to coordinate this exercise, so I suggest sending a copy of your proposed memo to Rumsfeld (Tab A) to Buchen.

RECOMMENDATION

That you initial the memo to Rumsfeld at Tab A.

*OBE*  
*9-18-75*  
*Per [unclear]*

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM

6302

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Mr. Tavis*

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD RUMSFELD

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

*Mr. Met  
for*

SUBJECT:

President's Remarks on Intelligence for  
San Francisco World Affairs Council

We have reviewed the draft remarks prepared for the President  
and suggest some revisions as indicated.

cc: Mr. Buchen

(Friedman)

September 17, 1975

Third Draft

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON INTELLIGENCE FOR WORLD  
AFFAIRS COUNCIL, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Let me make some observations on recent actions by the  
House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence.

I respect the right and obligation of the Congress to conduct all  
legitimate oversight of all government operations including highly  
sensitive intelligence functions. At my direction, the White House and  
other Federal agencies provided the Committee with everything it re-  
quested including very highly classified material. As Chief Executive,  
I am mindful of my responsibility to the elected representatives of the  
people. But I am also mindful of my duty to all the people of the United  
States for the preservation of our national defense and legitimate intelligence  
secrets.

The Committee handled some of the highly classified material  
given it in a manner that caused me grave concern over compromise

(more)

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of the national interest. If a private citizen were to release information involving communications intelligence, it would constitute a serious criminal violation of laws enacted by the Congress.

It is my view that the release of highly sensitive information -- whether four words or four hundred words or four thousand words -- is a dangerous departure from the American tradition for handling classified information long honored by both the legislative and executive branches. I had every right to expect that such information would be handled in confidence.

If the procedures followed by the Committee so far are continued, I will not further compromise our intelligence sources and the higher national interest by providing any additional sensitive material. It is my duty as President to insist upon satisfactory commitments from the Committee on agreed procedures for the handling of sensitive material.

The time has not yet come when a President can abandon his

(more)

responsibilities as Chief Executive and assume that world peace can be assured by the goodwill of others. Our intelligence capabilities are essential to the preservation of peace. They are vital to any real arms limitation <sup>AGREEMENTS,</sup> whether of strategic or conventional forces.

A smear campaign involving guilt-by-association <sup>AND</sup> innuendo, and sweeping attacks on our intelligence services jeopardize functions vitally essential to American freedom, security and world peace.

And so does the leaking of highly sensitive material.

I do not condone improper or illegal activities by any personnel or any agency of the Federal Government. I have before me the comprehensive reports on our intelligence agencies compiled by the Rockefeller and Murphy Commissions. I am taking administrative action and will recommend legislation to the Congress to prevent future abuses.

But I remain convinced that the best guarantee for peace and freedom is an American intelligence capacity second to none. It is

entirely proper that this system be subject to Congressional review.

Most members of the Congress share my view that we must not disrobe

ourselves while potential enemies, fully-clothed in secrecy, laugh at

our self-destructive tendencies. I ask the Congress for a spirit of

discretion and dispatch, in any investigations deemed essential.

It would be a national catastrophe, a tragedy far worse than anything this generation has known, if the viability of America's intelligence systems is destroyed.

I want to work with responsible leaders of the Congress to devise procedures for the proper review of intelligence activities and the protection <sup>OF CIVIL LIBERTIES</sup> essential to our survival as a free people. I will never cover

up transgressions by individuals in the intelligence agencies or anywhere

in the Federal Government. But I will insist upon all safeguards to the

confidentiality and security of the sources of intelligence -- individuals

as well as technology. Where the fate of the United States of America

is concerned, politics must stop at the water's edge.

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In 1947, President Truman requested the Congress to create the Central Intelligence Agency. It was for the straightforward purpose

(more)

of preventing another Pearl Harbor. President Truman knew from his days in the Senate, that we could have prevented Pearl Harbor. We had the necessary technology. The raw intelligence was in our hands.

But no single person or office or agency had the responsibility or the authority to assemble such intelligence and make an overall assessment in time to act.

Mistakes have been made in the intelligence community. <sup>INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS</sup> ~~Agents~~ are dedicated Americans, but also human beings. But that does not mean we can dismiss the constant watchmen of our national security.

America cannot survive if we become the only nation to expose <sup>AND</sup> ~~thereby~~ dismantle and demoralize

its intelligence services. President Truman insisted -- and the Congress agreed -- that American intelligence should not be compromised by

<sup>UNFORTUNATE BUT REAL PARADOX</sup> public exposure. It is an ~~anomaly~~ that in the real world of 1975 a

measure of secrecy is essential to preserve a free and open society. This

WHILE I SHARE THE DESIRE OF CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN OUR VIGILANCE AGAINST ABUSES AT HOME, I CANNOT ACCEPT AS A NECESSARY CONSEQUENCE THE WEAKENING OF OUR DEFENSES AGAINST FOREIGN THREATS



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need for secrecy is a challenge to the United States, the only government in the world which lays out its operations, as we do, for Congressional oversight. It is a test of our maturity. A government that has no

**OPERATE FREELY**  
secrets cannot survive in a world where others ~~do everything~~ in secret.

A President must be able to judge whether to protest diplomatically, send in the Marines, order a nuclear alert -- or to do nothing. The

right choice requires knowledge as well as wisdom. **IT REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE OF AN ADVERSARY'S INTENTIONS AND PLANS AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE OF HIS MILITARY HARDWARE AND DEPLOYMENTS.**

I do not believe that the American people want their Government to abandon our national defense, and the superior intelligence

system without which all our defenses are worthless, **IN AN ESCALATING WITCHHUNT CLOAKED IN A SINGLE-PURPOSE MORALITY BLIND TO THE REALITIES OF TODAY'S WORLD.**

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS  
FROM: Richard Ober *RS*  
SUBJECT: Proposed Remarks to the World Affairs  
Council in San Francisco on Monday,  
September 22, 1975

At Bud McFarlane's request, I have reviewed a submission just received from DCI Colby with a view to incorporating parts in the draft remarks of the President received under your memorandum to General Scowcroft dated September 17, 1975. Attached is a xerox copy of that draft with proposed inserts at the end of the first full paragraph on page 2 and at the end of the first paragraph on page 3. There is also a proposed two-word insert in the next-to-the-last line of page 1.

cc: Col. McFarlane