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OLC 74-0452

8 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee
of Senate Appropriations - 6 March 1974

1. On 6 March 1974, the Director appeared before the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee for a world wrapup briefing and discussion of the Agency's involvement with Senator Baker and his staff on Watergate. A technical sweep of the room, 1223 Dirksen Building, was conducted and the room was kept under technical monitoring throughout. No transcript was taken. Discussions included TK material.

2. Present from the Committee were:

- John L. McClellan (D., Ark.), Chairman
- John Stennis (D., Miss.)
- John O. Pastore (D., R. I.)
- Milton R. Young (R., N. Dak.)

3. Present from the Committee staff were:

- James R. Calloway
- Guy McConnell

4. Accompanying the Director were:

- Carl Duckett, DDS&T
- William Parmenter, DD/OCI
- OCI
- George L. Cary, Legislative Counsel

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5. In his opening statement, the Chairman indicated that the Subcommittee wanted to get a briefing on recent developments in the Watergate matter but he asked that the Director give his world wrapup briefing first. The Director covered his prepared text on the Soviet Union and Detente and began to summarize the material on Soviet strategic weapons when he was interrupted at 11:00 a. m. by a floor vote. During the first portion of the briefing, several matters of interest were discussed:

a. Senator Pastore talked at some length about the areas of technology in which the Soviets are interested and also questioned the Soviet strategy in permitting Solzhenitsyn to leave the USSR. Pastore feels he is more effective in his attacks against the Soviet Union and more dangerous to them now that he is outside of his homeland, and questioned the wisdom of the Soviets in allowing him to leave. He also expressed interest in what he referred to as the Soviet's "parasite" satellite.

b. Senator Pastore interpreted the Director's statement that he did not believe the Soviets had a first-strike capability to mean that there would not be a surprise attack by the Soviets. The Director attempted to clarify this and pointed out there were both psychological and technological reasons why we felt the Soviets did not feel they had a first-strike capability.

c. Senator Pastore asked if the Soviets wouldn't be better off by putting some of their assets into wheat and other materials rather than to devote so much to military items. The Director said that from the Soviet point of view their military strength was more important. In this connection, Mr. Duckett pointed out that the Soviets were determined they would never again allow themselves to be placed in a position of having to back down in the face of a military threat as they did in the Cuban missile crisis.

6. When the members returned, the Chairman suggested that the Director interrupt his wrapup briefing in order to cover the latest Watergate developments. Using the attached briefing aids, the Director mentioned the number of recent requests we have received from Senate committees in

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addition to our involvement with Senator Baker on the Watergate matter. In this connection, he mentioned that thus far 25 employees or former employees have appeared before Baker since early February and Ambassador Helms is scheduled to appear tomorrow. The Director then mentioned the subjects which have been covered by Baker's inquiry. (Pastore was not present during this part of the briefing, but Jim Calloway said he would advise the Senator that the Director would be happy to brief him privately at his convenience.)

7. Chairman McClellan questioned the Director about the destruction of the tapes and the Director responded that since these tapes had served the basic purpose of memory aids and were no longer needed, there was no reason to retain them indefinitely, except for the Hunt/Cushman tape. He asked how the log of these tapes was reconstructed and the Director explained this was done by checking the tape dates with the calendars of the officials who were involved.

8. Senator Stennis asked if the Agency had any connection with the "set up" in the White House which was headed by Admiral Wellander. The Director said we had no connection with this spying incident, adding that we knew of the existence of the office in the White House in which Yeoman Radford worked, but our contacts were direct and not through this office. He pointed out, however, that undoubtedly some CIA material was involved.

9. Chairman McClellan pointed out that some months ago he had asked that a full search be made for any documents relating to Watergate and they be forwarded to the Committee, and added he could not understand why some documents were still filtering in. The Director said we had in fact conducted several searches and added the IG was currently engaged in another search. He said he was embarrassed by the fact that documents kept being surfaced at this late date but attributed this problem to the compartmented system under which the Agency operated.

GEORGE L. CARY
Legislative Counsel

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