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Executive Registry

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18 September 1974

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
The Vice President-Designate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Governor:

Following up on our conversation, I forward herewith several items that might be of value to your preparations for your hearings:

- a. A copy of a letter to the President, with attachments, summarizing our oversight arrangements with the Congress;
- b. A memorandum on the international law aspects.

With respect to Chile, the recent exposure occurred as the result of the leak of a letter Congressman Harrington wrote to the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Morgan. Congressman Harrington had tried to get into our operations in Chile in a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee meeting at which I testified but where I refused to talk about our operational matters. He then pressed Congressman Nedzi to have a full hearing on it, and I provided all the details to Congressman Nedzi in that testimony. Thereafter, Congressman Harrington, under the House rules, requested and was granted access to the transcript of that testimony under a pledge of secrecy. That transcript has not been released elsewhere. One problem is that Mr. Harrington's letter, Tab E of the attached, states that I said that our program was one of "destabilizing" the Allende regime. I did not use that term in my testimony, and it is not a fair representation of our program from 1971 on of sustaining democratic forces looking to an election in 1976. We did not have anything to do with the military coup of 1973. At this point, several issues are in the forefront:

- a. Arrangements for Congressional oversight of CIA;
- b. Whether CIA should or should not continue covert action;

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c. The specifics of our program in Chile.

May I recall to your attention that you were present at a meeting of the PFIAB on 3 and 4 December 1970 at which a considerable discussion took place on Chile. My records do not indicate the degree to which this went into operational detail, but perhaps your memory will recall this. I point this out so that you will be prepared against any inadvertent statement that you had never been briefed on our activities in this regard.

I also attach for your possible information my prepared remarks at the Conference on CIA and Covert Actions on 13 September, which received a certain degree of publicity. Some of the questions above are covered in these statements.

By the time of your testimony, of course, President Ford may well have made some arrangements with the Senate and House leadership as to how to handle these matters. I will try to ensure that you are informed of any such decisions.

Respectfully,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby  
Director

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