

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~ (b)(3)

15 February 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mail Intercept Program

1. The attached memorandum from Chief, CI was orally briefed to the Director (and the DDCI), he was shown the activity reflected on page 12, and he read the entire attachment giving random examples of production. I used the attached Talking Paper as a basis of presentation to the Director. The Director expressed his agreement with the desirability that this project be passed to the FBI and his lack of conviction that the product to CIA is worth the risk of CIA involvement. He directed the DDCI to discuss the activity with the Acting Director, FBI, with a view to offering the FBI the opportunity to take over the project, including the offer of detailing the CIA personnel involved to the FBI to implement it under FBI direction and responsibility.

2. Since Mr. William Cotter had indicated that he was unwilling to continue to collaborate on the project beyond 15 February unless it were cleared with appropriate superior authority, the Director agreed that the activity would be suspended unless Mr. Cotter would accept its continuance for the time being under our assurances that the matter is being prosecuted at a very high level.

3. Mr. Osborn advised Mr. Cotter of this conclusion, and Mr. Cotter requested that the project be suspended until appropriate resolution of the problems involved. This has been done.

W. E. Colby
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Attachments

WEC:

Original - C/CI via DD/P

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WARNING BOARD SENSITIVE INFORMATION SOURCES AND METHODS RECEIVED
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