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(b)(3)

#5

23 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Project MERRIMAC

1. In connection with Mr. Helms' testimony, it is to be noted that he indicated he was not aware of the activities of Project MERRIMAC. I have reviewed the Project MERRIMAC file to see if there was any indication he was briefed on the subject.

2. Attached are two documents which may have a bearing on the subject. The first is a note by [redacted] which would seem to indicate at least by neresay, that Mr. Helms was aware of at least some of the activity involved in this Project. On the other hand, attached also is a proposal to extend the Project beyond its scope at that time, which Mr. Helms specifically disapproved. Attached also is a memorandum for the record which I prepared about the meeting to indicate his rationale in disapproving, which would indicate his concern for anything which might be considered domestic activity.

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[redacted signature box]

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Charles W. Kane  
Director of Security

Attachments (3)

[redacted box]

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PROJECT MERRIMACK.

26 September 1967

[redacted] advised that Mr. Helms through Mr. Osborne wants to learn any information from our assets in Women Strike for Peace regarding differences in opinion discussed in private versus what is said in public. [redacted] (b)(3)

advised that about six months ago a WSP representative "slipped" in one of her remarks giving a different version of her feelings than what she had given in a public release. Any information of this nature should be reported as soon as possible crediting the source of the comments with particular stress being given to the leadership and to Dagmar Wilson. Any information learned concerning what are the real facts and then ~~vs~~ what is said in public which perhaps is a distortion of the real facts will be of ~~int~~ interests.

*9/26/67*  
*26 Sept 67*  
*Please pass*

[redacted]

[redacted] (b)(3)

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*Handwritten notes:*  
1700/18  
001105  
June answer  
with 21

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

SUBJECT: Proposed Joint Effort of Far East Division and Office of Security in acquiring Assets in the "Peace" and "Black Power" movements in the United States

1. A meeting was held by the Director on this subject on 6 March. At this meeting the following were in attendance: The Director, the Deputy Director, the Executive Director-Comptroller, the Deputy Director for Plans, the Deputy Director for Support, the Acting Chief of the Far East Division, Special Assistant George Carver, [redacted] and the Undersigned.

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2. The Director stated that he had reviewed this proposal very carefully and basically, thought it was a good approach. He added that we were not getting all we should be getting from the Bureau in this regard and this would probably produce more information than had been gathered in the past. He stated, however, that the problem is activity in the U. S. by this Agency would appear to be beyond our legislative authorization. He added that he considered making this a joint effort with the FBI in order to avoid the implication that we were acting beyond our jurisdiction.

*AT 26*

3. He stated, however, that after careful consideration he feels that it would not be wise to proceed with this project. According to the Director, this is the type of thing which would undoubtedly flap in time and those who would seek to hurt the Agency would have their opportunity. He added that even if this were a joint operation with the Bureau he was not sure that this would stifle the criticism. For that reason he did not feel it would be wise to proceed.

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4. At this point, both [redacted] and Tom Karamessines indicated that this effort would be directed towards foreign targets and as such would be within our jurisdiction. Both the DDS and the Under- signed indicated that this was our understanding of the matter. The Executive Director-Comptroller and George Carver pointed out however that they doubted that this would make any difference since the trial would be in the newspapers and not based on fact. The DDCI said we might be able to do this working through [redacted]. The Executive Director-Comptroller, however, indicated that if we were to do this we would be better off doing it ourselves where we had control, but he questioned the wisdom of becoming involved. At the conclusion the Director said that he had a very bad feeling about this and hoped that we would all go along with his decision. He said that in spite of the validity of such an approach it is not worth risking the damage which could be done to the Agency if there was a flap.

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5. I asked [redacted] to review our current use of these individuals to see whether we were putting ourselves in a position of jeopardy in view of the new ground rules. He stated that he would do this and ~~would have it available for you on your return.~~ Meanwhile he stated that there was nothing being done which could cause embarrassment to the Agency.

6. If I had to make my guess, I would think that Col. White probably recommended against going ahead with the project. The Director referred to this paper as a paper that "Red" brought in last night. Since the Director apparently was willing to go along with this sort of thing in the past, I believe it was Col. White who raised the hand of caution in this case.

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[redacted]  
Charles W. Kane

Deputy Director of Security

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UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL USE ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: Director of Security & Acting Chief, FE Division	EXTENSION	NO.
	DATE	

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		

1. Deputy Director/Plans Room [redacted]	20 FEB 1968	21 Feb	[redacted]	I & 3. For concurrence
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2. [redacted]				<b>EYES ONLY</b>
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3. Deputy Director/Support Room [redacted]	20 FEB 1968		[redacted]	
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4. Dir-Comp	2/28	3/4	[redacted]	
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5. Deputy Director Central Intelligence Room [redacted]				
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6. Room [redacted]				
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7. Director, Central Intelligence Room [redacted]	6 MAR 1968			7. For signature
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8. [redacted]				
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9. Director of Security Room [redacted]				
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0. [redacted]				
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1. [redacted]				
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2. [redacted]				
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3. [redacted]				
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5. [redacted]				
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12/5 68-01

Executive Registry
68-493

16 FEB 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director, Plans  
Deputy Director, Support

SUBJECT : Proposed Joint Effort of Far East  
Division and Office of Security in  
Acquiring Assets in the "Peace"  
and "Black Power" Movements in  
the United States

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph nine.

2. Background: Following several discussions between officers of the Office of Security (OS) and Vietnam Operations (VNO) of Far East Division, it became apparent that OS was particularly well equipped to aid VNO in its efforts to penetrate various groups in the United States who are either in communication with representatives of the National Liberation Front (NLF) and North Vietnam (DRV) or groups whose members can or do, visit North Vietnam or NLF controlled areas of South Vietnam. Not only does OS have the necessary support mechanism for operations in the United States, their expertise in operating domestically as well as existing human resources is a distinct advantage.

3. While the objectives in penetrating the more radical groups in the United States obviously differs between VNO and OS there does exist in many instances common interest in acquiring assets in selected groups. Working in concert on selected targets VNO and OS will obviate duplication and reduce the possibilities of compromising inadvertantly one or the other's source with the possible attendant unfavorable publicity.

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4. Proposal: To obtain maximum benefit of available resources and funds, Office of Security and Far East Division believe a joint effort as described below affords the most secure, economical and expeditious means by which the Office of Security and Far East Division may realize their respective objectives. In order to be fully responsive to FE requirements as well as their own, OS is prepared to reorganize and further develop MERRIMACK operations, previously approved by Director, Central Intelligence, into three compartmented activities as follows:

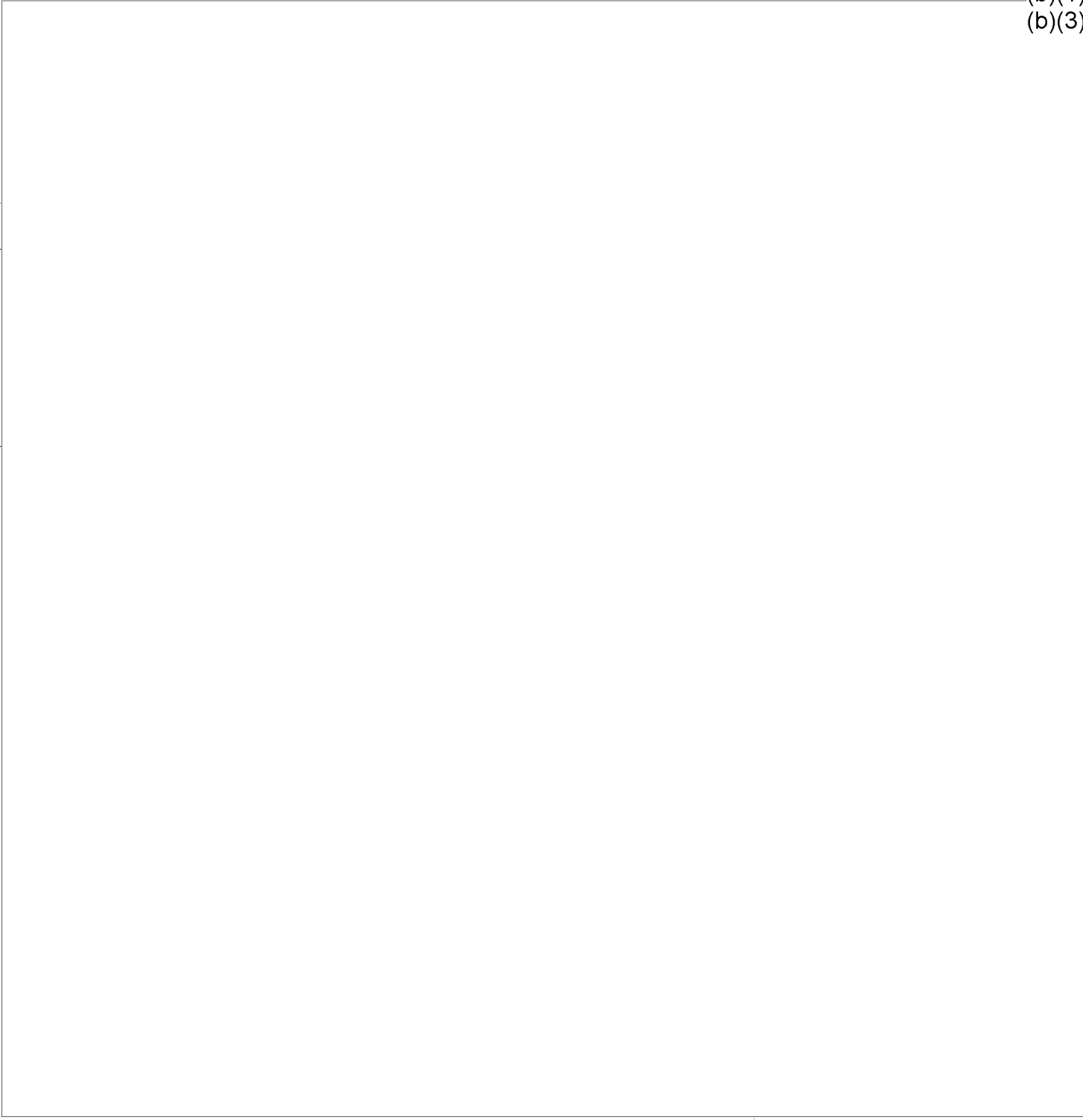
(b)(1)  
(b)(3)



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EYES ONLY  
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~~EYES ONLY~~

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)



~~EYES ONLY~~

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~~EYES ONLY~~



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(b)(3)



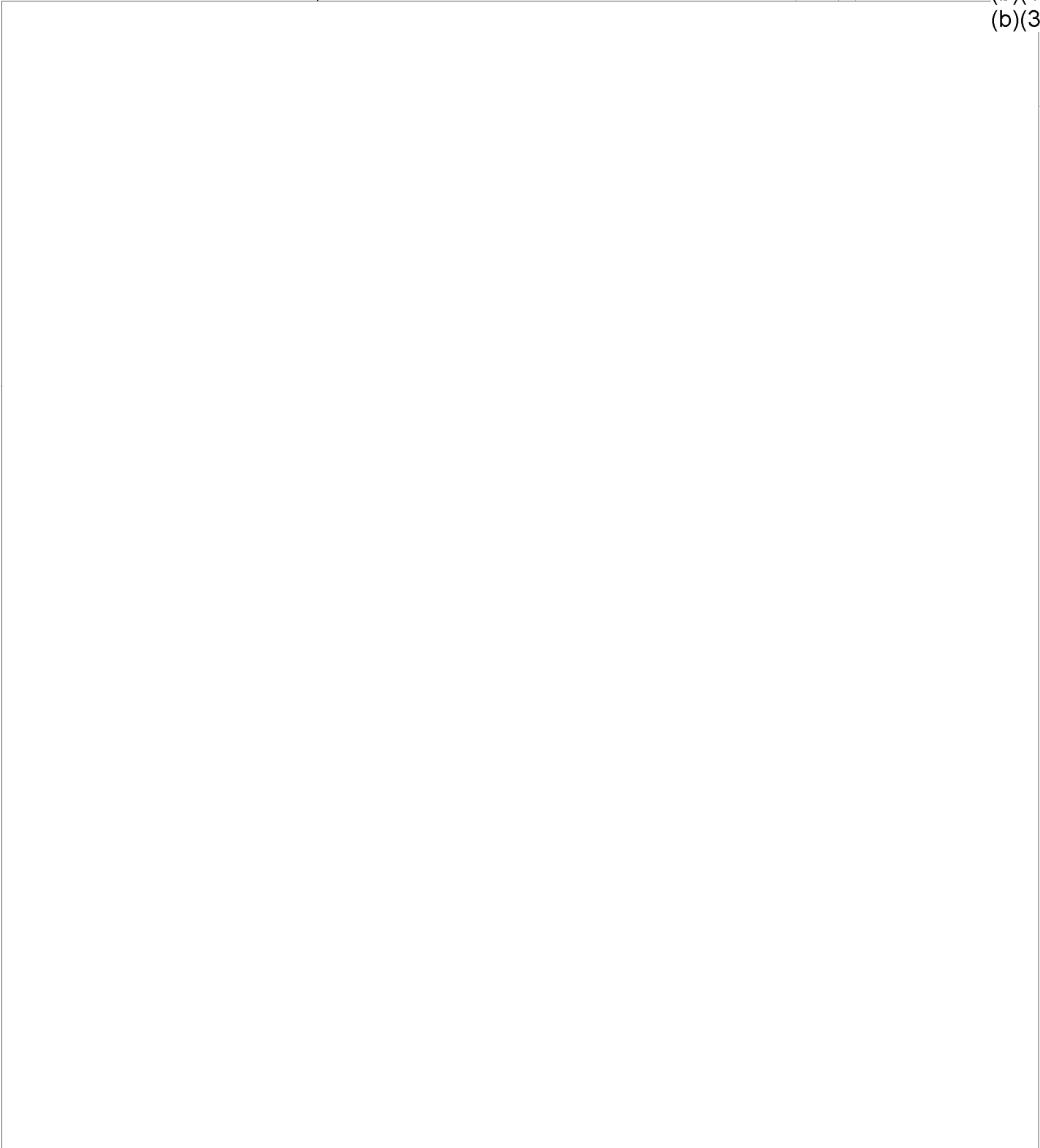
~~EYES ONLY~~

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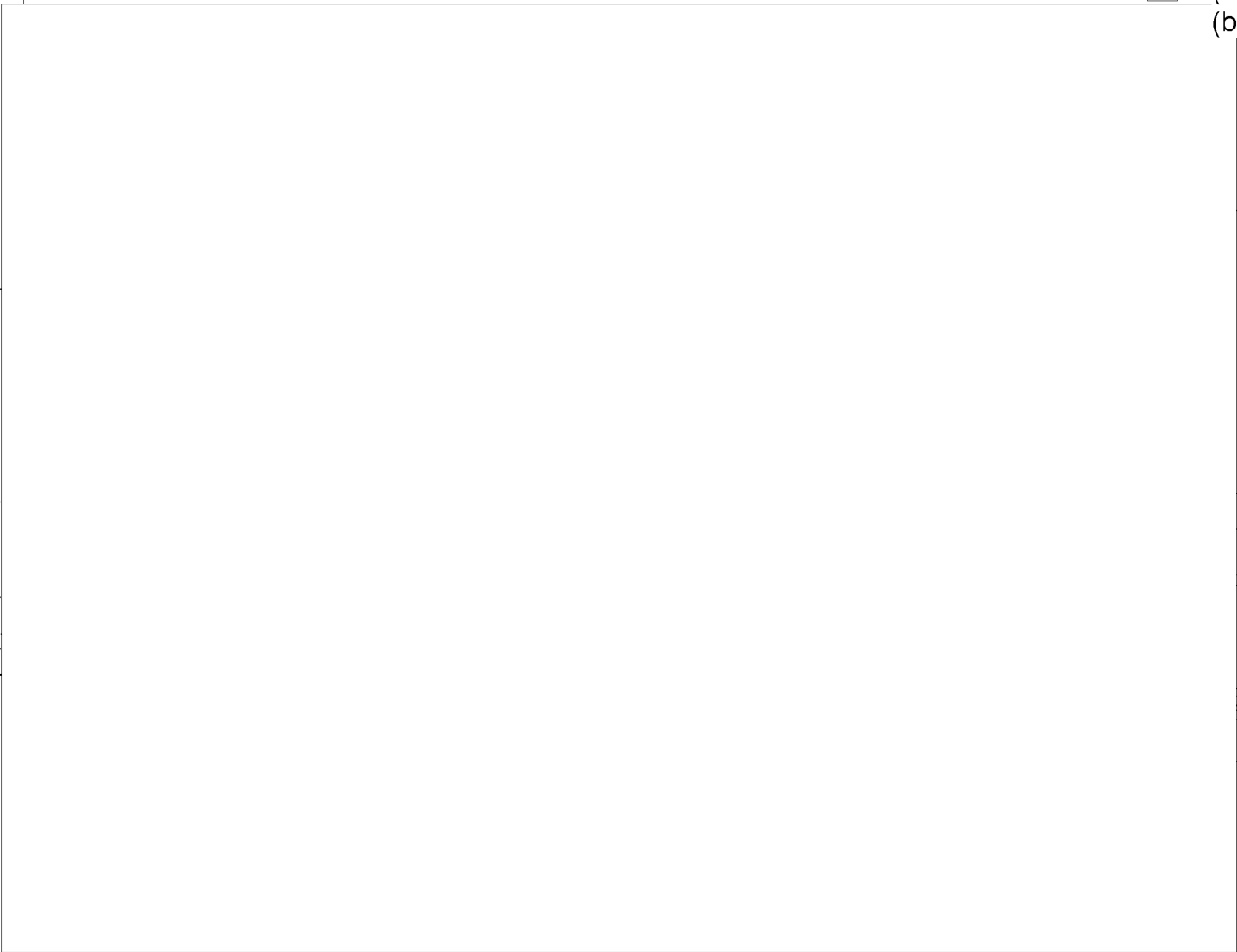


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EYES ONLY  
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~~EYES ONLY~~



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)



[Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

(b)(3)

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CONCUR:

[Redacted]

R. L. Bannerman  
Deputy Director  
for Support

28 Feb 68  
Date

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[Redacted]

Thomas H. Karamessines  
Deputy Director for Plans

24 Feb 68  
Date

(b)(3)

The recommendation contained in paragraph nine is approved.

*T APPROVED*  
*RM*

Richard Helms  
Director of Central Intelligence

6 MAR 1968

Date

Distribution:

- Orig. - Return to OS
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - ER
- 2 - DD/S
- 1 - DD/P
- 1 - AC/FE Div.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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~~SECRET~~