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 SECRET

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Review of Minutes of Morning Meetings

FROM:

Inspector General

B

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

31 MAY 1973

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

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Mr. Colby

5/31

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to DCI + DBCI  
WFC

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FORM 3-62

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Executive Registry  
03 29770

31 MAY 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Colby

SUBJECT : Review of Minutes of Morning Meetings

Per your request relayed through [redacted] we have read the minutes of the Director's morning meetings covering the period from 1 July 1970 through 31 March 1973 looking for items appearing to relate in any way to Watergate, the "plumbers," Agency involvement in the nominating conventions, or any other sensitive matters surfaced in the course of our present inquiries. We sifted rather finely and ended up with some 25-30 pages of material that we have in rough typescript. I doubt that it is worth while typing them in final, since you would be little enlightened by wading through them. We gave [redacted] a copy at his request. The following are highlights:

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There are about 25 entries during July and August 1971 relating to the Pentagon papers.

3 September 1970

The Director noted a 1 September memorandum from John Bross on Daniel Elsparg (sic). He asked the DDS to lift his clearances and to make this fact known in security channels.

23 December 1970 (DDCI in the chair)

Executive Director called attention to the President's 21 December memorandum on "Disclosures of Classified Information and Coordination and Clearance of Official Statements," which is believed to be the result of representations by the Director and Admiral Anderson. Executive Director said that he will meet with selected Executive Committee Members next week to discuss the memorandum's implications and to develop recommendations for action by the Director in view of the special responsibilities placed on him by the President.

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8 July 1971

DDCI reported that John Ehrlichman had telephoned to advise us that the White House is appointing former CIA employee Howard Hunt as a security consultant. ✓

Another account of the Morning Meeting of this date reads:

It was also announced that Howard Hunt has been named security consultant to the White House. General Cushman told Ehrlichman that Mr. Hunt would have full cooperation from CIA.

16 July 1971

Carver said that [redacted] was most appreciative of the time which Houston spent with him yesterday.

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22 July 1971 (the day Howard Hunt came to see General Cushman)

Carver highlighted his session yesterday with NSC staffer David Young, who is assisting John Ehrlichman in reviewing the secret Pentagon papers.

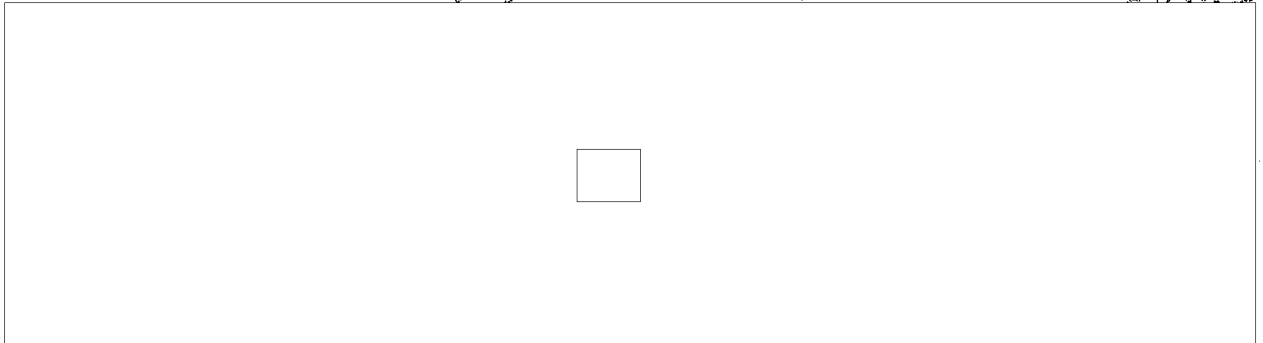
18 August 1971

A-DDP noted that he has reported to White House staffer David Young on the results of the Deputy Director of Security's survey of those who saw the classified assessment upon which Tad Szulc based his 13 August article.

11 November 1971

In response to the Director's question Carver said that some work requested by John Ehrlichman is pending. The Director asked to be filled in later on the details. (This referred to a Vietnam study)

See separate subland



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11 February 1972

The Director reminded Executive Committee members of Dr. Kissinger's request that any inquiries from elements of the White House staff be referred to his staff for conveyance to the Agency.

16 February 1972

Lehman noted plans to continue briefing Attorney General Mitchell, whose resignation is effective 1 March.

6 March 1972

The Director noted his memorandum to the Deputies and Independent Office Heads, subject: "Allegations of Assassinations." He asked that it be mentioned at Staff Meetings.

21 March 1972

The Director said that the President has seen his 17 February memorandum on reducing disclosures of classified intelligence and directed the White House staff to prepare a memorandum urging that all agencies comply with proper disclosure procedures.

8 June 1972

Houston said that he will be attending a meeting called by DOD General Counsel Buzhardt, who is recommending that Justice drop the case against Daniel Ellsberg.

19 June 1972

The Director noted the 17 June arrest of James W. McCord and four others who were apprehended at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate. With the Director of Security present to provide biographic details, the Director made it perfectly clear that responses to any inquiry with respect to McCord or Howard Hunt, who may be implicated, are to be limited to a statement that they are former employees who retired in August and April 1970 respectively. The Director asked that this guidance be disseminated via staff meetings. The Director asked that any inquiry from other elements of the government be referred to the Director of Security who is to be the focal point. Inquiries from the press are to be referred to [redacted] who may say that McCord worked in the Office of Security. The Director noted that we have no responsibility with respect to an investigation except to be responsive to the FBI's request for name traces. It was noted that Howard Hunt may have done some work since retirement in connection with the preparation of supporting material for some awards. The Executive Director was asked to review this topic and report to the Director.

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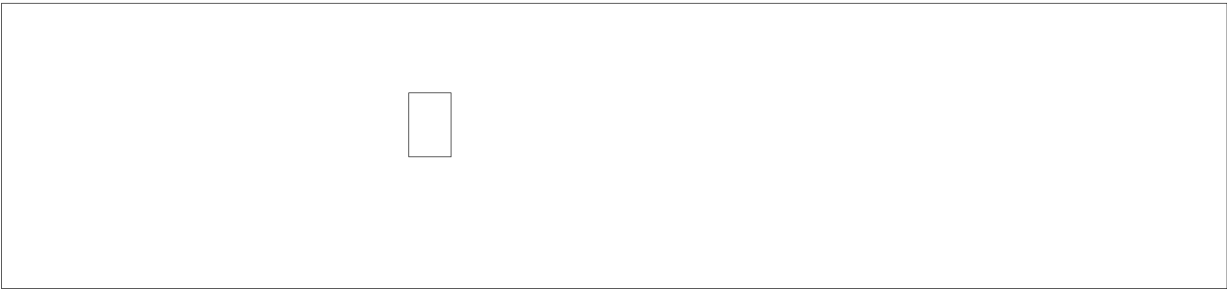
20 June 1972

In response to the Director's request, the Director of Security highlighted developments over the past twenty-four hours with respect to the McCord/Hunt, et al., situation. He noted that the late edition of the New York Times carries a different story by Tad Szulc than that which appeared in the edition received here. The Director of Security anticipates some inquiries on Bernard L. Barker's situation, and it was noted that Mr. Barker was hired by the Agency in 1960 and terminated in 1966. The Director complimented [redacted] on his handling of inquiries and asked that future inquiries be met with a response confined to the fact that, now that we have acknowledged that both McCord and Hunt are former Agency employees, we know nothing more about the case and the caller should be referred to the FBI as appropriate.

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[redacted]

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21 June 1972

In view of the coverage in today's New York Times and Washington Post, Maury recommended that Chairman Nedzi be briefed on the McCord affair and that this briefing include all our information about the others involved. The Director asked Maury to touch base with the Director of Security and prepare a briefing paper on this topic for his review. Citing the number of distorted rumors about this matter, the Executive Director said that during the course of the day he hopes to provide a suggested Headquarters Bulletin for all employees for the Director's review.

[redacted] noted a number of inquiries from the press with respect to the Cuban-Americans involved in the bugging attempt at the Democratic National Committee headquarters and their alleged involvement in the Bay of Pigs, etc. The Director asked that such inquiries be met with an explanation that we are not prepared to be helpful on this matter.

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23 June 1972

Maury noted that he briefed Chairman Nedzi on the McCord/Hunt situation.

21 August 1972

Houston noted a telephone call from Howard Hunt who explained that his attorney was with him and had a question about a friend's past affiliation with the Agency. [redacted] DD/Sec, has reviewed the employment, and Houston reported that he replied directly to Hunt's friend, [redacted] that his old affiliation should create no problems in connection with his appearance before a grand jury.

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18 October 1972

Maury noted his response to a request from CSC General Counsel Anthony Mondello, who was reacting to a request for the personnel files of those former Agency officers involved in the

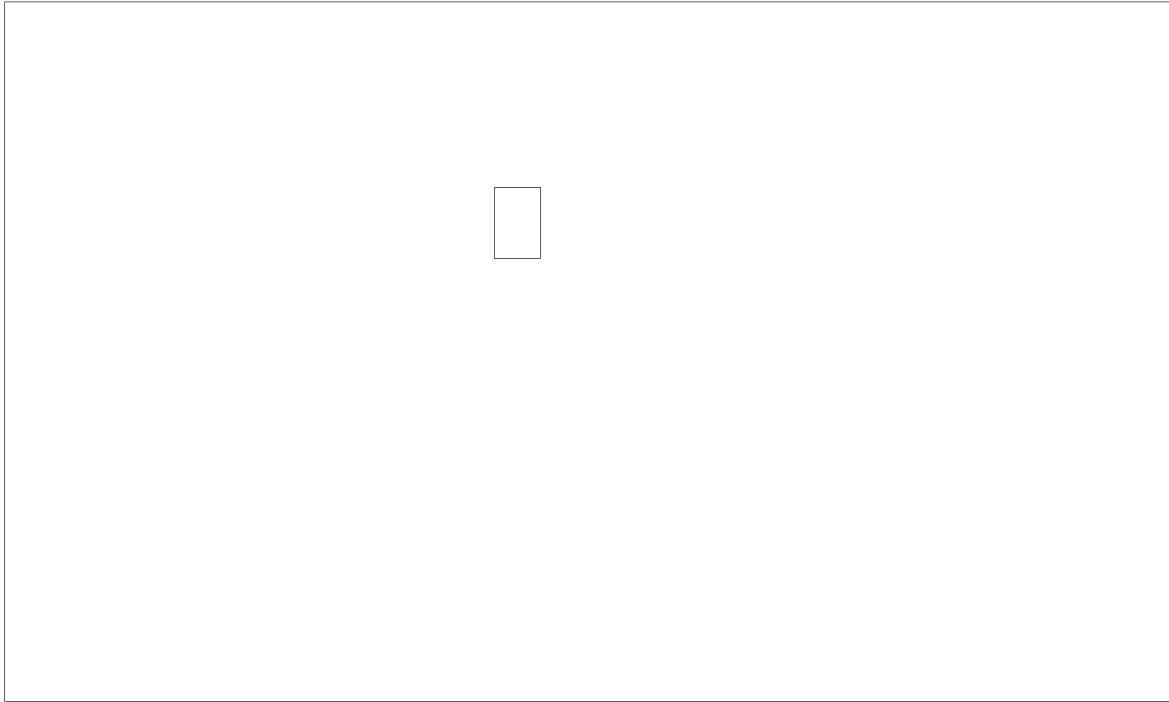
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Watergate incident from Senator Kennedy's Subcommittee on Administrative Practices and Procedures. He added that we are exempted from related CSC regulations, and the Director endorsed his plan to provide only the dates of their departure from the Agency in the event the Senator's office calls us on this matter.

3 November 1972

Houston recalled that last August he reported on a call from Howard Hunt and his subsequent guidance to [redacted] on how to handle affiliation with the Agency, i. e., contract employee of a proprietary. Houston said the Los Angeles Times called Thuermer to ask if [redacted] had been an Agency employee to which Thuermer replied we had no record of employment. Houston has advised [redacted] of this inquiry.

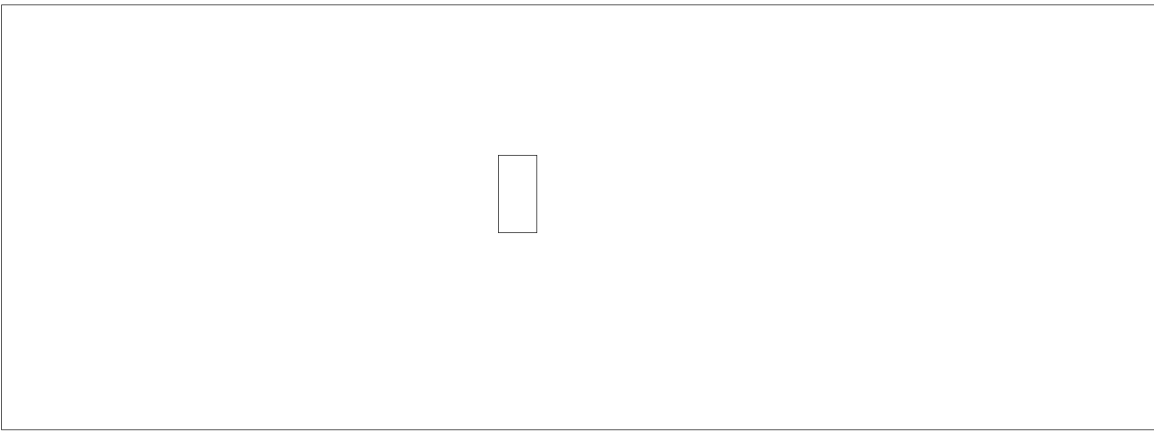
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22 November 1972

Warner related that according to Assistant Attorney General Henry Peterson, U. S. Attorney Earl Silbert has several questions on the Watergate case. The Director indicated he will review this matter later.



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15 January 1973

Maury noted press stories that Watergate defendant Martinez was on the Agency payroll until 17 June and anticipated some inquiry on this topic. The DDP endorsed his view that, whereas Martinez was [redacted] this relationship should cause no serious difficulty.

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18 January 1973

Maury reported that when he and Dave Blee, [redacted] saw Chairman Nedzi with respect to the Chairman's forthcoming trip to Finland, Leningrad, Sofia, and Athens, Chairman Nedzi briefed on his November conversation with New York Times correspondent Seymour Hersh. Maury went on to highlight the several topics and allegations Hersh claims he has with respect to Agency activities, particularly allegations that we are engaged in extensive domestic operations. Maury will circulate a memorandum on the information Hersh claims he has. The Director explained that we should assemble a senior team to meet with Chairman Nedzi and clearly outline what we do and do not do in the United States.

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19 January 1973

Maury reported that Chairman Nedzi would like the full Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations to hear a presentation by us on Agency activity in the United States sometime in mid-February. The Director noted that his decision of yesterday to turn out a senior team for this briefing stands.



22 January 1973

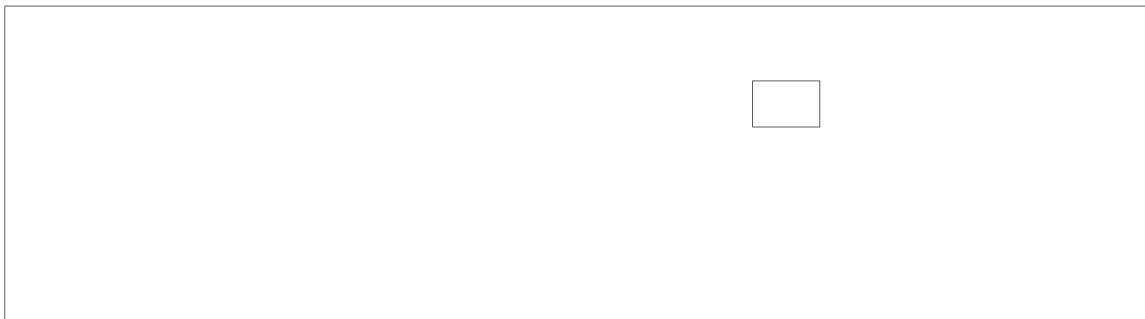
General Walters noted Howard Hunt's appearance on television last night. Thuermer will obtain a transcript of the program, and the Executive Director noted his concern over Hunt's suggestion that he is no longer bound by his secrecy agreement.

23 January 1973

Executive Director noted that the terminal secrecy agreement which Howard Hunt signed said that he will be acknowledged as an Agency employee. His assertion that he is not bound by the agreement because we did in fact acknowledge his employment here is therefore ill-advised.

7 February 1973

Maury noted that Mr. Helms is appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning on police training, ITT, and the Watergate incident. He also noted that he has solicited the support of Senators Humphrey, McGee, and Scott to make appropriate public statements following Mr. Helms appearance.



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14 February 1973

Thuermer noted advice from Nicholas Horrock of Newsweek that a "soft story" is floating around Newsweek on the general topic of political espionage and ex-CIA agents.

1 March 1973

Maury related that former Director Richard Helms has been asked by Senator Fulbright to reappear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Maury said that Mr. Helms would probably be queried on the Watergate incident, Agency training of police, and ITT and went on to describe Mr. Helms' anticipated response.



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William V. Broe  
Inspector General

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