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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

**C.F.**

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FROM: The Situation Room  
TO: Dirk Cheney

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## MESSAGE

FROM: Secretary Rumsfeld

TO: Mr. Cheney

The following is the letter I plan to send to Senator Stennis regarding the nominee for the position of the second Deputy Secretary of Defense. The letter has been coordinated with Bill Clements, Mel Laird, Bob Ellsworth, Doug Bennett, Bill Hyland, and the Acting OSD General Counsel. Also, the appropriate Congressional bases have been touched including Pike and Church. Before the letter is sent to Senator Stennis, Bill Clements will clear it with Bill Colby and General George Brown. I also plan to inform DIA, NSA, and the Service Intelligence Chiefs, and Assistant Secretary Al Hall of the contents of the letter prior to sending it to Senator Stennis.

I would appreciate your passing this through Brent Scowcroft, the President and Ambassador Bush and advising me as soon as possible. I hope an announcement can be made either Friday or Monday.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President, as you know, is determined to assure that the United States Government has an intelligence capability that is effective and efficient, and which he is confident is functioning

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within the appropriate legal constraints. I share his belief that this is an important responsibility.

To provide the proper leadership within the Department of Defense, which, of course, carries a substantial portion of the operational intelligence responsibility, I have come to the conclusion that, during the period ahead, the Department of Defense would be best served by having the responsible civilian appointee be above the level of Assistant Secretary. Under present law, the office which is available to be utilized, in a timely manner, is the position of the second Deputy Secretary of Defense under the terms of 10 US Code 134. Accordingly, the President proposes shortly to submit to the Senate a nominee for the second position of Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The assignments of the second Deputy, upon confirmation, would include, but not be limited to, reviewing and making appropriate recommendations concerning:

- The utility of the Department's intelligence product to potential users, including focus, quality and timeliness.
- The efficiency of the Department's intelligence activities in terms of the value returned for dollars expended, and with attention to any unnecessary duplication and possible improvements in management arrangements.

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- The adequacy of existing management controls with respect to the Department's intelligence activities, including responsiveness to senior management and compliance with the law and Executive Branch regulations and policy guidance.

In fulfilling these responsibilities the Deputy would assume, on my behalf, a close working relationship with the DIA, the NSA, and the Service intelligence activities. In addition, he would represent the Department, as appropriate, on various intergovernmental groups and committees concerned with this subject matter.

After reviewing the legislative history of 10 US Code 134, and the recommendations of various panels and studies which have been made on this subject, and being sensitive to Congressional concern and desire to assure that national intelligence activities are effective, economical, and managed within existing legal constraints, I have decided to recommend this management approach. It will enable the Department, during this particularly important period, to provide the high level leadership which I believe is needed.

In accordance with the provision of 10 US Code 134, the President will establish precedence within the Department of Defense between the two Deputy Secretaries. He will, upon submission of the nomination to the Senate of the second Deputy, designate Deputy Secretary William P. Clements, Jr., as the principal Deputy Secretary of Defense, retaining the full statutory authority of that post. In view

of this, there will be absolutely no confusion as to authority and responsibility within the Department.

I am hopeful that the Senate will act favorably on the nomination to be submitted by the President so that the Department will be in the position to give the special leadership and attention which this most important area of responsibility requires at this time.

Sincerely,

Donald Rumsfeld

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Jim -

I plan to keep this here for now.

Trudy

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line that curves to the right and then loops back down to the left, ending in a small circle.