

The original documents are located in Box C13, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 3/13/1975 (2)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

March 13, 1975

C.F.
ND 6

Dear Senator:

This will serve as an acknowledgment of your March 12 letter to the President listing documents relative to the work of your Senate Select Committee.

I want to assure you that the letter will be called to the President's attention without delay.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

William T. Kendall
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Frank Church
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

bcc: w/incoming to Philip Buchen for ACTION.

WTK:VO:vo

RECEIVED
MAR 18 1975
CENTRAL FILE

FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO, CHAIRMAN
JOHN S. TOWER, TEXAS, VICE CHAIRMAN

PHILIP A. HART, MICH. HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.
WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN. BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
WALTER D. HUDDLESTON, KY. CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR., MD.
ROBERT MORGAN, N.C. RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, PA.
GARY HART, COLO.

WILLIAM G. MILLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

3-13

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE TO
STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH
RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 21, 94TH CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 12, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

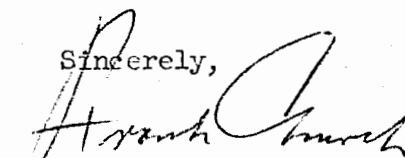
On behalf of the Senate Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect To Intelligence Activities, Senator Tower and I want to thank you for the opportunity we had on March 5 to discuss the work of the Committee. I want to express my personal appreciation for the direct and forthright manner in which you addressed some of the initial questions that lay before the Select Committee, and your willingness to assist the Committee to meet its responsibilities under the mandate of S. Res. 21.

We are in agreement that the work of the Committee should proceed as expeditiously as possible and the Committee is gratified at the full and complete cooperation that we have received from the Executive agencies up to this point. In every respect thus far, the agencies have been fully cooperative with the Committee and the staff and I believe this augers well for a constructive and expeditious conclusion to our inquiry.

At our meeting on March 5th with you, we discussed the general areas in which the Committee would need initial documentation. As we discussed, our first requirements are to determine the legal basis for the activities for the intelligence agencies of the United States Government. In this regard, it will be helpful to the Committee to receive from whomever you may designate, the documents, files, and other papers that might be required to fully determine the legal basis for the activities of United States intelligence agencies. With the unanimous approval of the Committee, I respectfully request that the documents on the attached list directly relevant to the inquiry authorized by S. Res. 21, be supplied to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



Frank Church

ATTACHMENT

1. The report furnished to the President by Director Colby in January 1975.
2. All Executive Orders, National Security Decision Memoranda (NSDMs) or Intelligence Directives (NSCIDs), and other White House* directives pertaining to the charter, structure or guidelines for any overt or covert foreign or domestic intelligence agencies or activities.
3. All Executive Orders, National Security Council memoranda and directives, and other White House instructions pertaining to the structure, functions or organization of intelligence policy organizations within the Office of the President, including the Forty Committee and the Washington Special Action Group (and their predecessor organizations, e.g., the Operations Coordinating Board, Special Group, 54/12 Group, 303 Committee, etc.).
4. Organization charts and staffing patterns (for the present and, to the extent reasonably convenient, back to 1947) for all intelligence-related organizations within the White House (NSC, Forty Committee, OEP, WSAG, etc.) including names of key officials and staff personnel.

* "White House" as used in this listing is meant to include the President, the Office of the President, including the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the National Security Council and the Office of Management and Budget.

C.F.
ND 6

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 4, 1975

PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH SENATORS
FRANK CHURCH (D-IDAHO) AND JOHN TOWER (R-TEXAS)

Wednesday, March 5, 1975
10:00-10:30 a.m. (30 minutes)
The Oval Office

Through: Max L. Friedersdorf
From: Patrick E. O'Donnell

POD m b

I. PURPOSE

To discuss matters involving the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. The Senate Select Committee has unanimously agreed that Senators Church and Tower, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, should seek this meeting with the President.
2. They want to discuss the Committee's views as to the broad purposes and objectives of the Committee's inquiries into the intelligence activities of the United States Government.
3. The Senators will request the President's full cooperation in enabling the Select Committee to fulfill its mandate and, of course, will want to hear the President's views.

B. Participants: See Tab A

C. Press Plan: White House Photographer only.

III. TALKING POINTS

To be provided by National Security Council (See Tab B)

PARTICIPANTS

The President

SENATE

Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho)

Senator John Tower (R-Texas)

STAFF

Jack Marsh

Max Friedersdorf

General Scowcroft

Bill Kendall

Patrick O'Donnell

B

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I am very happy to have the opportunity to discuss a subject which is of great importance to this country.
2. I want to cooperate with your investigation of the intelligence community. It is essential, however, that in the process of examining the allegations of impropriety which have been made, we not cripple the effectiveness of the institutions which are so critically important to the very survival of this country.
3. Willful wrongdoing cannot be tolerated. We must make it clear that we expect our intelligence agencies and their personnel to operate within their charters and statutes and in conformity with the dictates of a free society. At the same time, we must be careful that we do not create the impression among loyal dedicated intelligence personnel that their heads may be on the block in later years for actions they undertook in the belief they were serving their country to the best of their ability. Should such an impression ever gain currency, the CIA would be reduced to the level of a newspaper clipping and filing service.
4. We have, in addition, to concern ourselves with the impact around the world of our investigations. We must not expose before our opponents -- or even our friends -- our successes and failures, our strengths and weaknesses, our methods and operations. We are a great power and it is important that we be perceived as such -- that our intelligence capability to a certain extent be cloaked in mystery and held in awe. Disclosures would be disastrous -- our successes would provide opponents with means to counter us in the future; our failures would reveal our impotence -- and both would embarrass or endanger foreign individuals, institutions and governments.
5. We must, then, tread very carefully between the need to discover and correct any errors of behavior in the past and the requirement to preserve and protect a vital national asset for the future. Our purpose must be to preserve and enhance the confidence of the American people in their intelligence organizations. Our methods must be such that we do not destroy the effectiveness of these institutions in the process.

6. I believe it essential, therefore, that we work out a system for determining the material required for the purposes of your inquiry and for providing adequate safeguards for that material which is to be provided.
7. This is not the occasion to discuss specifics regarding the sensitivity of the data involved, the needs of the committee, or other aspects which will have to be worked out. As I said at the outset, the Executive Branch will cooperate, with the understanding that there will be adequate security procedures for the committee and its staff and that there is a presumption against providing sensitive material not indispensably material to the inquiry.

FYI Cautionary Notes

- (1) It is important that you not commit yourself either to cooperate fully or to provide any specific categories of information.
- (2) You should avoid negotiating with the Senators or dealing in specifics.
- (3) If asked about waiving Executive Privilege, you should not agree, but simply say you will consider each matter as it comes to you.
- (4) If asked about providing the Rockefeller Commission report to the Committee, you should say the Commission expects to complete its work at an early date and you would want to look at the report before making a commitment.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

HCP

2/25

Bill-

This is the one you suggested we propose for Thursday, the 6th. However, I thought I had better check it out with Gen. Scowcroft since Pat O'Donnell had not asked him about it before submitting.

Scowcroft says ok but to try to do it before March 5 when HAK leaves again. They want him to sit in on the meeting apparently.

Want to take a look and suggest a time to propose before the 5th.

HCD

Possible for

MON MAY 3rd
11:00 AM

if ECON MEETING IS
CANT.

N

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENT

DATE: February 22, 1975

FROM: Patrick E. O'Donnell *POD*

THRU: Max L. Friedersdorf *m.l.f.*

VIA: Warren Rustand

MEETING: Senators Frank Church (D-Idaho) and
John Tower (R-Texas)

DATE: At the President's earliest convenience

PURPOSE: To discuss matters involving the Senate
Select Committee to Study Governmental
Operations With Respect to Intelligence
Activities.

FORMAT: Location: The Oval Office (30 minutes)
Participants: The President
Senator Church
Senator Tower
Jack Marsh
Max Friedersdorf
General Scowcroft
Bill Kendall
Patrick O'Donnell

PRESS COVERAGE: White House Photo only.

BACKGROUND: The Senate Select Committee to Study
Governmental Operations With Respect to
Intelligence Activities has unanimously agreed
that Senators Church and Tower, the Chairman
and Vice Chairman, respectively, should
request a meeting with the President at his
earliest convenience. They want to discuss the
Committee's views as to the broad purposes
and objectives of its inquiries into the intel-
ligence activities of the United States Govern-
ment.

BACKGROUND (con't): The Senators will request the President's full cooperation in enabling the Select Committee to fulfill its mandate and, of course, will want to hear the President's views.