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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 5, 1975

Jim Shuman -

The attached should be  
put with the President's Briefing  
Book.

Jim Connor

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

Question: Senator Church says the designation of Ambassador Bush will politicize the Agency because of Bush's former post as Chairman of the GOP.

Answer: I believe that Republicans and Democrats who know George Bush and have worked with him know that he does not let politics and partisanship interfere with the performance of public duty.

Nearly all of the men and women in this and preceding Administrations have had partisan identities and have held partisan party posts. But one of the strengths of our system is that historically in matters of defense and foreign policy they seek to achieve our goals in a non-partisan way. George Bush is a part of that American tradition and he will demonstrate this when he assumes his new duties.

I do not feel that any Administration should deny to itself the services of able men and women because they held political posts. A number of our most able national leaders have served as senior officials of both of our great national parties.

JOM  
11/5/75

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

Question: In effect, Senator Church has said the removal of Director Colby will frustrate and obstruct the Select Committee's hearings. Why, in light of these investigations did the removal occur now?

Answer: The President is as interested as the Senator in having the hearings completed. He has asked Director Colby to remain at his post until Ambassador Bush qualifies as his successor. He has asked Director Colby to cooperate fully with the Committee until that time and he expects Ambassador Bush to do likewise once he becomes Director.

As you are aware, the work of both the Church and Pike Committees is slated to wind up very shortly. Director Colby has worked with both Committees over the past month and has felt that they have been able to obtain from him much of the information they needed and he will be available in the weeks ahead to respond to their further requests.

JOM

11/5/75