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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~.....~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1976

MP

MR PRESIDENT:

Jack Marsh requested that the attached response from Senator Church be put in your reading file.

There is a question as to the response and he is working on this matter.

Jim Connor

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

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WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN.
WALTER D. HUDDLESTON, KY.
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CHARLES MC C. MATHIAS, JR., MD.
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, PA.

WILLIAM G. MILLER, STAFF DIRECTOR
FREDERICK A. O. SCHWARZ, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL
CURTIS R. SMOTHERS, MINORITY COUNSEL

THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

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

April 22, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I have received your letter of April 21, 1976, concerning the issue of making public the aggregate budget figure for the United States intelligence community.

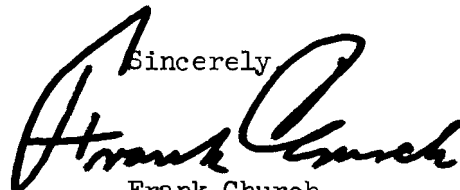
The Committee, after thorough consideration has voted to disclose this figure. This decision was made after first hearing the views of CIA Director George Bush, as well as many high officials including four former Directors of the Central Intelligence Agency. I can report that the Committee's decision was based upon a careful review of the security aspects of the issue. It was a matter that was reviewed and debated many times over the past fifteen months.

The overwhelming evidence makes clear that disclosure of the aggregate budget figure for national intelligence would not adversely affect United States security, but would, in fact, serve to strengthen adherence to constitutional government by complying with the obligation imposed by the Constitution in Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 that:

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

Despite the fact that the Committee has already voted to release this aggregate budget figure, I will, nonetheless, convene the Committee as you requested on Monday, April 26, to hear Mr. Bush's views before a final decision is made.

Sincerely



Frank Church
Chairman

J. F.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is my understanding that the Select Committee expects to publish in its final report the budget figure for the Intelligence Community.

It is my belief that the net effect of such a disclosure could adversely affect our foreign intelligence efforts and therefore would not be in the public interest.

Over the past two years both Houses of Congress have voted by overwhelming margins against the disclosure of information concerning our foreign intelligence budget. I believe that these votes reflect the judgment of the Congress, which I also hold, that such disclosure over a period of time would reveal information helpful to our foreign adversaries.

Director of Central Intelligence George Bush has briefed your Committee on the harm to United States foreign intelligence agencies that could result from publication of this budget information. He is available for further discussion of this issue with the Committee members.

I urge the Committee to reconsider its position. In assuring that our foreign intelligence agencies are held accountable to the public, we must not undermine their

capability to provide the foreign intelligence needed by me and other elected and appointed officials in order to meet our constitutional responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Ford

The Honorable Frank Church
Chairman
Select Committee to Study
Governmental Operations with
Respect to Intelligence Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

cc: The Honorable John Tower
Vice Chairman

*Copies to all members of Committee
make thankful
Hugh Scott
pw Jack Murch*

up 4/23

FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO, CHAIRMAN
JOHN G. TOWER, TEXAS, VICE CHAIRMAN
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Chairman
Select Committee to Study
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United States Senate
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cc: The Honorable John Tower
Vice Chairman

*Copies to all members of Committee
Mike Mansfield
Hugh Scott
Joe Jack Welch*

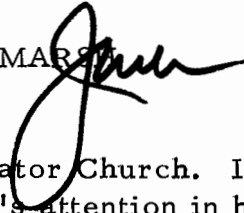
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR

FROM: JACK MARSH

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Marsh", is written over the printed name "JACK MARSH".

Please note the incoming from Senator Church. I would appreciate your bringing this to the President's attention in his routine reading file.

There's a question as to the response and I will advise you shortly in this regard.