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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *RF*

OPENING STATEMENT: PRESS CONFERENCE

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1975

- 1 -

ON FRIDAY, THE COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE

UNITED STATES PRESENTED ITS REPORT TO ME.

I READ THE REPORT

THIS WEEKEND, AND HAVE DECIDED IT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE

PUBLIC.

IT WILL BE RELEASED TOMORROW.

I THANK THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THEIR STAFF. IT WILL BE OBVIOUS TO ALL THOSE WHO READ THE REPORT THAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE AN EXTENSIVE JOB OF LOOKING INTO THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CIA EXCEEDED ITS AUTHORITY BY CONDUCTING DOMESTIC OPERATIONS IN VIOLATION OF ITS STATUTE.

MY READING OF THE REPORT LEADS ME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE

PANEL HAS BEEN FAIR, FRANK AND BALANCED.

I WILL ASK THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STUDY ALL MATERIALS

GATHERED BY THE COMMISSION ON ANY MATTER TO DETERMINE WHETHER

ACTION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL.

I AM ASKING EACH OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED BY THE REPORT TO STUDY ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO REPORT BACK TO ME WITH THEIR COMMENTS ON THE REPORT.

IN ADDITION TO INVESTIGATING THE ORIGINAL ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES BY THE C.I.A., THE COMMISSION, AT MY REQUEST, SUBSEQUENTLY LOOKED INTO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE DOMESTIC INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS.

THE COMMISSION HAS REPORTED THAT IT DID NOT COMPLETE EVERY ASPECT
OF THAT INVESTIGATION. THE MATERIALS THEY HAVE DEVELOPED
CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO ME IN
CLASSIFIED FORM.

BECAUSE THE INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION ALLEGATIONS
IS INCOMPLETE AND BECAUSE THE ALLEGATIONS INVOLVE EXTREMELY
SENSITIVE MATTERS, I HAVE DECIDED THAT IT IS NOT IN THE NATIONAL
INTEREST TO MAKE PUBLIC MATERIALS RELATING TO THESE ALLEGATIONS AT
THIS TIME.

HOWEVER, UNDER PROCEDURES THAT WILL SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST,
I WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEES
THESE MATERIALS TOGETHER WITH OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

I KNOW THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS INVOLVED WILL
EXERCISE UTMOST PRUDENCE IN HANDLING SUCH INFORMATION.

AS I HAVE STATED PREVIOUSLY, I AM ^{*totally*} OPPOSED TO POLITICAL
ASSASSINATIONS. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT AND WILL NOT
USE SUCH MEANS AS INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POLICY.

HOWEVER, IN FAIRNESS, NONE OF US SHOULD JUMP TO

15 or 20 yrs.

CONCLUSIONS AS TO EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST

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AFTER I HAVE FURTHER STUDIED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
COMMISSION, I WILL ORDER OR SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS THE NECESSARY
MEASURES TO INSURE THAT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS IN A
WAY DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS.

IT REMAINS MY DEEP PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT THE C.I.A. AND
OTHER UNITS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ARE VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF
THIS COUNTRY. AS WE TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO INSURE THE PROPER
FUNCTIONING OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, WE MUST ALSO BE CERTAIN
THAT THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS THE INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY NECESSARY
FOR THE FULL PROTECTION OF OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.

END OF TEXT

Draft Opening Statement For Monday Night Press Conference on CIA

On Friday the Commission on CIA activities within the United States presented their report to me. I have read the report this weekend, and will make it available to the public, the Congress and the press ~~this Wednesday~~ ^{Tomorrow}.

I thank the Vice President and the other members of the Commission and their staff, ~~for their work in developing this report.~~ It will be obvious to all those who read it that the Commission has done a ^{good} ~~thorough~~ job of looking into the allegations that the CIA exceeded its authority and conducted domestic operations in violation of its statute. My reading of the report leads me to the conclusion that the Panel has been fair, ~~direct~~, frank and balanced.

I am asking each of the Federal Agencies and Departments affected by the report to carefully study its recommendations and to report back to me within two weeks with their comments on the report and their recommendations as to what actions they believe should be taken to prevent any recurrence of the improper activities that have been discovered.

~~In addition,~~ I will ask the Attorney General to study all the evidence gathered by the Commission to determine whether any action should be undertaken against any individuals.

In addition to investigating the original allegations of improper domestic activities by the CIA, the Commission, at my request, reviewed allegations concerning possible involvement in assassination attempts. The Commission has reported that it did not ~~have the time or the resources to~~ complete that aspect of their investigation. They have turned over to me the evidence they have concerning these allegations.

Because the investigation of assassination allegations is incomplete and because the allegations are sensitive and could have ~~diplomatic~~ *international* ramifications, I have decided not to release materials relating to these allegations at this time. ~~However, I have instructed my Counsel to review all documents and other evidence in the Executive Branch on this subject.~~ This material together with that collected by the Rockefeller Commission will be made available in accordance with agreed upon procedures to the Congressional Committees investigating the Intelligence Community.

I hope that those Committees will exercise ~~equal discretion~~ ^{utmost prudence}
in their handling of ~~this~~ ^{such} information. I will not in any way
characterize decisions ~~of~~ ^{as contained in} previous Administrations based upon
hindsight. I will leave it to the historians to make those kinds
of judgments.

For my part, ~~I assure the American people that~~ I am unalter-
ably opposed to political assassinations ~~in any form~~. This Admin-
istration has not and will not use such means as instruments of
national policy.

After receiving the recommendations of the Departments and
Agencies on possible changes in legislation or administrative
orders, it is my intention to recommend to the Congress those
steps ~~I believe necessary~~ to insure that the Intelligence Community
functions in a way designed to protect the Constitutional rights of
all Americans.

I state again my deep personal conviction that the CIA and
other units of the Intelligence Community are vital to the national

interest of the country. In the months ahead as we take the steps
necessary to insure the proper functioning of the Intelligence
Community, we should remember that we must also ^{be certain} ~~assure~~ that
the United States maintains an intelligence capability ~~sufficient~~
to protect ^{fully} our national interest.

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