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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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 any action should be undertaken against any individuals.

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 CIA, 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 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 conclusions as to events that may have occurred in the past.

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 CIA 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.