REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . National security restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . . Memorandum of Conversation

DESCRIPTION . . . . . . . . . Memcon - Ford, Schlesinger, Marsh, Rumsfeld, Buchen

CREATION DATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 03/28/1975

VOLUME . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 pages

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . . . 036600207

COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . . . . NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS

BOX NUMBER . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10

FOLDER TITLE . . . . . . . . March 28, 1975 - Ford, Schlesinger, Rumsfeld, Marsh, Buchen

DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 12/04/2002

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . . . WHM
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL:

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE & TIME:
Friday - March 28, 1975
2:00 p.m.

PLACE:
The Oval Office

SUBJECT:
Congressional Investigation of CIA

PARTICIPANTS:
The President
James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
Donald Rumsfeld, Assistant to the President
John D. Maehl, Jr., Counselor to the President
Phillip W. Buchen, Counsel to the President
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

President: I know you wanted to discuss intelligence. We have set up
a group here under Phil. Brent, Jack and Don are on it. We think this is
of the highest importance. We look at each request to determine what
should go up to the Hill, what shouldn't, and why. I wanted you to have
this background. I would appreciate your thoughts.

Buchen: The USIB also reviews it.

Schlesinger: I take that with a grain of salt. In these times it is less
of a community than usual. There is demoralization and contention as
to what should be done. Within the CIA there is bitter dissension.

One of my points is that in this period it is difficult for the DCI to serve
as leader of the intelligence community as in the 1971 directive. We
thought that the DCI should have a management job, operations would be
left at Langley and the production would be brought closer to the White House.
President Nixon didn't want legislation so we went for a hybrid. The
difficulty is that it is difficult for the DCI to be a manager and also to
run the covert and other business. You can change it by patching it or
by going for new legislation. The Hill will do it eventually, but maybe
you should go in in nine months or so with an organization which would
put clandestine operations in a less exposed position such as MI6.

President: Who is under the DCI now?

Schlesinger: The line responsibility is CIA. He is also the chairman
of the Executive Committee. If Bill becomes spokesman for other
elements of the community, it tends to pollute the whole community.

Buchen: The DCI also has management responsibility throughout the
community.

Schlesinger: There has been a DCI staff for years, but it wasn't effective
until I and Colby got there.

[There is a discussion about the Director and two hats.]

These arrangements are very fragile right now. Reducing the prominence
of CIA operations is desirable in this climate.

If you look at restructuring the intelligence community you should look
at a restructuring of the personnel field -- it is now full of tired-out
old agents.

President: Wouldn't any proposal for a new intelligence community be
submitted in the worst possible atmosphere? Just as the argument against
a new director now.

Buchen: We are looking into the structural business quietly.

Schlesinger: In the interim, we have a job of patchwork.

[There is a discussion of separating the DCI from Director of CIA.]

Colby is inclined to be too damned cooperative with the Congress.

Rumsfeld: Colby is not sending papers up against our instructions, but
90% of the contacts we can't control.
**REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL** . . . . National security restriction

**TYPE OF MATERIAL** . . . . . Note

**DESCRIPTION** . . . . . . . . Handwritten notes for memcon

**CREATION DATE** . . . . . . . 03/28/1975

**VOLUME** . . . . . . . . . . . 2 pages

**COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID** . 016600207

**COLLECTION TITLE** . . . . . NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS

**BOX NUMBER** . . . . . . . . . . . 10

**FOLDER TITLE** . . . . . . . March 28, 1975 - Ford, Schlesinger, Rumsfeld, Marsh, Buchen

**DATE WITHDRAWN** . . . . . . . 12/04/2002

**WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST** . . . . WHM