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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR:

William E. Colby, Director
of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Briefing of the Senate Select Committee
on Covert Action

The President has directed that a briefing on covert action be prepared for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on CIA Operations for delivery on Wednesday, May 14. The purpose of the briefing is to open that phase of the Committee's work dealing with covert action by presenting in full the legal and political position of the Executive Branch toward covert action as well as the operational approach to the conduct of these actions since enactment of the National Security Act in 1947. The briefing should address the following areas of Committee interest:

- Fundamental rationale of the Executive Branch in justification of covert actions to include specific and thorough treatment of the relationship of these actions to the national security.
- The objectives to be met through covert operations.
- Authorities which historically have formed the basis -- in the U.S. and other countries -- for the conduct of covert actions.
- The conceptual approach that has been pursued since 1947 in the planning and conduct of political, economic and paramilitary operations.
- An historical summary of the organization of the U. S. Government for providing policy guidance, considering, approving and evaluating covert operations.



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- A summary presentation of specific illustrative operations selected from the entire experience of U.S. covert action. The presentation of these illustrative operations should not, however, include the names of individuals or places involved in the particular operation.

It is requested that the text of the briefing, which is to be delivered orally, be submitted for review to the Counsel to the President no later than noon on Tuesday, May 13, 1975.

Brent Scowcroft
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs



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