

1 - Mr. E.S. Miller
1 - Mr. [redacted]

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 18, 1973

Acting Director, FBI

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
(AD HOC)

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On May 17, 1973, Mr. J. Fred Buzhardt, Special Assistant to the President, requested the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in providing him with a comprehensive statement regarding the history and activities of the Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc), which was established by President Nixon in 1970. A "Special Report," prepared by this Committee, was included in material found in the papers of former Counsel to the President.

There is enclosed a letterhead memorandum dated May 18, 1973, which sets out a summary of pertinent information in our files regarding this Committee together with observations based on the recollection of knowledgeable FBI personnel. You are requested to advise whether the Department would have any objection to our furnishing this information to Mr. Buzhardt. It is noted that Mr. Buzhardt has requested an expeditious response.

It is pointed out that former Bureau official W.C. Sullivan might be able to provide additional information regarding this matter, particularly as to the circumstances surrounding the recall of the White House memorandum of July 23, 1970. No steps are being taken, however, to contact Mr. Sullivan at this time.

Enclosures - 6

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(5)

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MAY 18 1973
FBI

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MAY 21 1973
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-10-80 BY SP150 RCB/LLC
EM

NOTE:

See cover memorandum E.S. Miller to W.M. Felt, dated and captioned as above, prepared by RDC:nib.

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MAY 19 1973

ENCLOSURE

- Felt
- Baker
- Callahan
- Cleveland
- Conrad
- Buzhardt
- DeLoach
- Malone
- Marshall
- Miller, E.S.
- Soyars
- Thompson
- Walters
- Tele. Room
- Baise
- Barnes
- Bowers
- Herrington
- Conroy
- Mintz
- Eardley
- Hogan

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. E. S. Miller

1 - Mr. [redacted]

May 18, 1973

CLASSIFIED BY 14828
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2,3
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE
6/16/78

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
(AD HOC)**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) files disclose the following information regarding the captioned Committee:

During a conference with President Nixon on June 5, 1970, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was appointed chairman of a special committee to coordinate more effectively the intelligence-gathering efforts of the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) so as to assure that the President was being furnished a comprehensive picture of subversive activities. Present at the time of Mr. Hoover's meeting with the President were CIA Director Richard Helms; NSA Director Vice Admiral Noel Gayler; General Donald V. Bennett, Director of the DIA; and Mr. Tom C. Huston, White House Staff Assistant; all of whom were designated by the President to serve on the special committee. Also present were Presidential Assistants H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, and Secretary Robert H. Finch of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

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An initial meeting of the Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc) was held in Mr. Hoover's office on June 8, 1970. This meeting was attended by Mr. Helms, Vice Admiral Gayler, General Bennett, and Mr. Huston. Mr. Hoover stressed the President's keen interest in this matter and outlined the general objectives of the Committee. He instructed that a working subcommittee be established, composed of representatives of all of the member agencies and headed by Assistant Director William C. Sullivan of the FBI.

This working subcommittee subsequently held a series of meetings beginning June 9, 1970. At the initial meeting of this group, Mr. Huston provided members with a written outline detailing the purposes, membership, procedures, and objectives of the Committee. A copy of this outline is attached. (Attachment 1)

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1-16-80
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-10/CS/ck
DATE 5-18-77

- Mr. Felt _____
- Mr. Baker _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. Cleveland _____
- Mr. Conrad _____
- Mr. Gebhardt _____
- Mr. Jenkins _____
- Mr. Marshall _____
- Mr. Miller, E.S. _____
- Mr. Soyars _____
- Mr. Thompson _____
- Mr. Walters _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Baise _____
- Mr. Barnes _____
- Mr. Bowers _____
- Mr. Herington _____
- Mr. Conny _____
- Mr. Mintz _____
- Mr. Eardley _____
- Ms. Hogan _____

RDC: glw
(5)

~~TOP SECRET MATERIAL ATTACHED~~

SEE NOTE PAGE 3

62-113546-18

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT ENCLOSURE

8/19/85
CLASSIFIED BY SP-10/CS
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc)

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It was agreed that all papers and reports prepared by the Committee would be classified "Top Secret - Handle Via Comint Channels Only" in view of the President's desire that the work of the Committee be tightly controlled, and since the Committee report would be based in part on Comint data.

During subsequent meetings of the working subcommittee, representatives of each member agency submitted written material for use in compiling the report being prepared for the President. Detailed discussions took place regarding this material, and a draft report was prepared. The final meeting of the working subcommittee was held on June 23, 1970, at which time a consensus was reached on a final draft of the report to be issued by the Interagency Committee. This "Special Report," which was dated June, 1970, and numbered 43 pages, was signed and approved by the heads of each member agency at a final meeting of the Committee held in Mr. Hoover's office on June 25, 1970. A copy of the report was delivered to Mr. Huston at The White House on June 26, 1970, with a brief transmittal letter dated June 25, 1970, addressed to the President by Mr. Hoover. A copy of this letter is attached. (Attachment 2)

The "Special Report" was divided into three main sections. Part One set forth a summary of the internal security threat. Part Two summarized limitations on certain intelligence collection techniques (e.g., electronic surveillance coverage of foreign establishments) and cited advantages of maintaining such restrictions as well as the advantages of relaxing them. Part Three consisted of a brief evaluation of interagency cooperation together with suggested measures to improve the coordination of domestic intelligence collection. (U)

By White House memorandum dated July 23, 1970, addressed to Mr. Hoover, with copies for the President and Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Huston advised that the President had carefully studied the "Special Report" and had made certain decisions with respect to the issues raised therein.

A copy of Mr. Huston's memorandum is attached. (Attachment 3) According to this communication, the President's decisions called for a relaxation of existing restraints on intelligence coverage. Mr. Huston

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Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc)

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also attached an undated memorandum outlining the organization and responsibilities of an interagency group on domestic intelligence and internal security which the President had ordered be established. A copy of this memorandum is also attached. (Attachment 4)

Following receipt of this memorandum, the FBI directed a letter dated July 27, 1970, to Attorney General Mitchell, furnishing him with pertinent background facts regarding the Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc) and providing him with a copy of Mr. Huston's communication. This letter stressed Mr. Hoover's opposition to the lifting of various investigative restraints as well as to the creation of a permanent interagency committee on domestic intelligence; but it noted that the Bureau was prepared to implement White House instructions at the Attorney General's direction. The memorandum requested a prompt expression of Mitchell's views concerning the matter and noted that the FBI would take no action to implement the June 23, 1970, White House communication pending the Attorney General's reply. A copy of the Bureau's letter of July 27, 1970, is attached. (Attachment 5)

The FBI file in this matter does not show any further developments subsequent to the July 27, 1970, letter to the Attorney General. There is no indication that Mitchell ever responded to this communication or that any further action was taken by the FBI.

However, it is the recollection of knowledgeable FBI personnel that, on instructions which apparently originated with Mr. Hoover's office, the original of Mr. Huston's memorandum of July 23, 1970, was returned to Huston on about July 30, 1970. It was the understanding of supervisors handling this matter at the time that a conversation had taken place between Mr. Hoover and Attorney General Mitchell; and that Mitchell had reached an understanding with Mr. Haldeman at The White House that the Huston memorandum would be returned without any acknowledgement or action being taken thereon, with the entire matter being a closed issue. It is stressed, however, that no documentary evidence exists to support the foregoing.

In any event, the Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc) was terminated on June 25, 1970, upon approval of its report to the President.

Enclosures (5)

NOTE: See memorandum Miller to Felt, ³ dated 5/18/73, captioned as above, prepared by RDC:nlb.

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EXHIBIT 61

18 MAY 1973

SUBJECT: Interagency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc)
Chairman, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, June 1970

1. On Friday, 5 June 1970, the President held a conference with Directors and officials of the intelligence community. This resulted in the establishment of the subject Ad Hoc Committee.

2. The White House representative to the Working Subcommittee of the Interagency Committee on Intelligence was Tom C. Huston. He stated that the President's primary concern was to strengthen and improve American intelligence operations in every way possible in order that the product be far better than it was at that time. He said that the critical security needs of the day required this. He also stressed that this was the first time that a President had taken this constructive leadership step in the intelligence field. The President, he said, believed that the American intelligence community, in spite of its achievements, had never fully realized its great potential nor had it functioned to the maximum of its capacity.

3. In the same vein, the Committee was informed that it had been given by the President a unique and unparalleled opportunity to make a great and enduring contribution to intelligence operations and thereby to the national security posture as a whole. The Committee was assured that there were no obstacles of any kind in its path.

4. The first meeting of the Interagency Working Subcommittee was chaired by W. C. Sullivan of the FBI and attended by Mr. Helms. The following personnel attended:

| | |
|------|--|
| FBI | Donald E. Moore who was subsequently succeeded by Charles D. Brennan. Mr. Fred J. Cassidy was added to FBI representation |
| | George C. Moore |
| NSA | Benson K. Buffham |
| Navy | Capt. Edward Rifenburgh |
| AF | Col. Rudolph Koller |
| Army | Lt. Col. John Downie |

DIA James Stilwell

CIA James Angleton

Mr. Helms gave a brief resume of the President's conference and turned the meeting over to Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan echoed the remarks of Mr. Huston and stated that the deadline for the first draft of the Committee Report would be due at the close of business, 22 June 1970, and the final version was to be on the President's desk on 1 July 1970.

5. The Interagency Working Subcommittee met a total of four times, to wit: 9, 12, 18, and 23 June. The agenda which was gradually formulated in response to the President's request covers all matters set forth in the Special Report which was submitted by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover to the President and which was signed by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, FBI; Mr. Richard Helms, CIA; Lt. General D. V. Bennett, USA, Director, DIA; and Vice Admiral Noel Gayler, USN, Director, NSA. Minutes of each meeting were maintained and submitted for approval during the course of each succeeding meeting. The CIA representative, Mr. James Angleton, was assisted by Mr. Richard Ober of the Agency, and Mr. William O. Cregar of the FBI, functioned as secretary for the Working Subcommittee.

6. Mr. Huston kept reminding the Working Subcommittee that its duty was to present the most thorough program and options to the President and he expressed at times annoyance when the subject of political considerations were introduced into the discussion.

7. By way of background, it should be noted that Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Huston had been in frequent contact on these matters before, because Mr. Sullivan was extremely displeased by the number of restrictions which had been placed on the FBI by Mr. Hoover.

8. It should also be noted that Mr. Huston informed the members of the Working Subcommittee that his role would be comparable on domestic affairs to that of Dr. Kissinger on foreign affairs. After the report had been submitted, he issued an instruction from the White House that all material relating to matters of domestic intelligence or internal security interest be directed to his exclusive attention. (See attachment).

9. Mr. Hoover was known to have voiced his most strenuous personal objections to the Attorney General regarding the establishment of the Committee. It is our understanding that the Attorney General interceded on Mr. Hoover's behalf at the White House and that Mr. Huston was eventually relieved of his duties.

10. Subsequently, with the emergence of Mr. Mardian as Assistant Attorney General for Internal Security, the Intelligence Evaluation Committee was formed which held its first meeting on 3 December in Mr. Dean's office at the White House. In attendance were interagency representatives.

IEC Membership

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| CIA: | Richard Ober |
| White House: | John W. Dean III |
| Justice: | Robert C. Mardian |
| FBI: | George C. Moore |
| Treasury: | Eugene Rossides |
| NSA: | Benson K. Buffam |
| Defense: | Colonel John Downie |
| Secret Service: | Thomas T. Kelly |

11. Intelligence Evaluation Committee met seven times between 3 December 1970 and 20 July 1971. The work of the Committee has been carried on by a permanent interagency staff, the Intelligence Evaluation Staff, which has met regularly under the Chairmanship of the Department of Justice official (currently Mr. Bernard A. Wells) from January 1971 to the present. The Agency representative, Richard Ober, contributes intelligence on foreign aspects of papers prepared by the staff. Staff papers are distributed to the White House (Mr. John Dean) and to the heads of the participating Agencies.

12. In time, Mr. Mardian returned to the question of the report and had many discussions with Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Dean on these matters at a time when Mr. Sullivan was having his problems with Mr. Hoover.

13. To the best of our knowledge, the origin of this exercise began when Mr. John Dean was at the Department of Justice and was concerned with the May Day demonstrations (May 1, 1970). He was subsequently transferred as Counsel to the President where he continued his close relations with Mr. Mardian. It is our understanding

that widespread civil disorders prompted the President to address himself to this problem. It should also be noted that the President and the Attorney General were aware of the complete breakdown of personal liaison between the FBI and the intelligence community.

14. The question of gaps in intelligence collection is embodied in correspondence between Mr. Hoover and the Director of Central Intelligence of March 1970. Prior to that period in January and February 1970, Director Helms conferred with Attorney General Mitchell regarding the inadequacies of domestic collection. Also on 13 February 1970, Admiral Gayler, Director of the National Security Agency, saw the Attorney General to protest the Bureau's withdrawal from sensitive domestic operations of vital importance to the National Security Agency.

15. William C. Sullivan resigned from the FBI on 6 October 1971 (Washington Post, May 17, 1973, page 20). Robert C. Mardian left the Department of Justice to work on the President's re-election campaign on April 1972 (according to information from FBI and Department of Justice officials). Executive Registry states on the evening of 17 May 1973, that after checking the records, there is no indication of any memorandum prepared by Mr. Helms concerning the 5 June 1970 meeting with the President.

16. Most of the gaps in collection still remain as set forth in the Report. There are two subjects of possible concern:

a. International airmail to and from the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and the United States has been screened by this Agency under conditions of maximum security control at a single international air facility in this country beginning in November 1952. In some instances, data on the envelopes were recorded, and in some cases the envelopes were opened, contents recorded and resealed. This activity was suspended in February 1973.

b. The second concerns itself with the

16 April 1971: The Agency proposed to the FBI the installation of technical coverage of the

23 April 1971: FBI Director Hoover turned down the proposal

- 23 April 1971: CIA Director Helms sent a letter to Attorney General Mitchell requesting that the FBI turn-down be reversed.
- 24 April 1971: The Attorney General reversed the FBI decision.
- 26 April 1971: Technical equipment was delivered from the Agency to the FBI.
- 18 May 1971: All of the devices which had been installed in the _____ during the period 27 April to 16 May were tested and all were working.
- 3 Feb. 1972: Coverage was stopped at Agency request because Hoover had advised that he was to testify in Congress and would advise the Congress that the installation in the _____ was initiated at CIA request.
- 8 Dec. 1972: The Agency requested the FBI reinstitute coverage of the _____
- 20 Dec. 1972: The Department of State requested the FBI institute all possible coverage of the _____
- 22 Dec. 1972: Coverage was partially reinstated.
- 26 Dec. 1972: Reinstitution of coverage completed.
- 16 Feb. 1973: CIA requested the FBI to discontinue the coverage.
- 22 Feb. 1973:

James Angleton

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