

June 1975  
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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 read the report this weekend, and will make it available to the public, the Congress and the press tomorrow.

I want to thank publicly the Vice President and the other members of the Commission and their staff. It will be obvious to all those who read it 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 the materials gathered by the Commission 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 carefully study its recommendations and to report back to me with their comments on the report.



Richard Cheney Files, b. 8, 7  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library



In addition to investigating the original allegations of improper domestic activities by the CIA, the Commission, at my request, 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. These materials, (collected by the Rockefeller Commission regarding alleged assassinations,) together with other materials available in the Executive Branch, will be made available to the Senate Select Committee in accordance with agreed upon procedures. 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 release materials relating to these allegations at this time.

I hope that the members of the Congress involved will exercise utmost prudence in handling this information. Fairness requires that we not, based on hindsight, characterize decisions made in previous Administrations. Historians will make those judgments.





For my part, I am opposed to political assassinations. This Administration has not and will not use such means as instruments of national policy.

After I have studied the recommendations of the Commission, it is my intention to recommend to the Congress any measures I find 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 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 that the United States maintains the intelligence capability necessary to protect fully our national interest.

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WH: Office of Press Spokesman (Ron Nason): Draft of Prez Ford Opening Statement  
for press conference releasing Rockefeller Commission. rpt

c. June 1975 [pres conf on June 19]  
revised draft

Source: Ford