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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE TO
STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH
RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 31, 91ST CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 14, 1975

Mr. William E. Colby
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Colby:

On November 13 the Committee voted without objection to undertake a two-day public hearing on Chile. These hearings are now scheduled for December 4 and 5. By this letter the Committee invites you to appear as a witness on the morning of December 4.

Mr. Director, I want you to know of the great importance I attach to your appearance before the Committee on this issue. The nature and extent of American involvement in the internal affairs of Chile over the past 10 years remain both shrouded in secrecy and driven -- if not distorted -- by rumor and misstatement. The Select Committee has neither created nor contributed to this situation. The Committee is of the view that it is necessary to set the record straight and educate the public on vital questions concerning the use of covert action in a democratic society.

You have told us on a number of occasions that the Agency has taken "bum raps" from time to time because of its activities. I believe very strongly that a public hearing on Chile, focusing on the facts and the issue of the control and management of American covert activities in Chile will give the public the opportunity to see that the Agency was under the firm direction for the President and his chief advisers. I can assure you that the Committee will not expose sensitive sources and methods of intelligence operations. Its main interest is to go to the core issue of why certain operations were undertaken and how these actions were considered and directed.

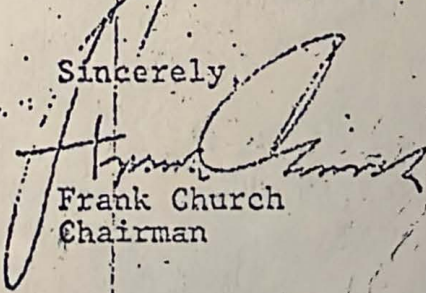
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In all frankness, I must say that it is my view that it would be a disservice to the public and perhaps to the Central Intelligence Agency itself if you should forego the opportunity to speak to these issues. I hope that you will share my sense of the importance of your appearance before this Committee; an appearance which will still any public notion that the Agency is unwilling or unable to subject its record to public scrutiny. Related to this matter of your own appearance I would like to know what your position is with regard to public testimony of former or present Agency employees.

I would appreciate having an early response to this invitation.

Sincerely,


Frank Church
Chairman



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