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13 December 1977

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Review at Hq.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Blakey

1. Mr. Leader and I met with Mr. Blakey and Mr. Cummins for about an hour this afternoon.

2. I told Mr. Blakey that I had spoken to the IG and he informed me that we are authorized to give Mr. Cornwall access to the unsanitized version of the comments on the Schweiker Report, subject to his signing the same agreement signed by Mr. Blakey.

3. I took the occasion to emphasize again our uneasiness with some of the information exposed in the report. I reiterated some of the detail about persons in Cuba, as well as technical operations. Reference was made once more to the effect on various foreign [redacted] if details of [redacted] were to be revealed. I expressed the opinion that the basic story could be told, where it was judged appropriate to discuss a given subject, without revealing sensitive sources and methods. I said that our work with the Church Committee had been generally successful in this respect, and that language could usually be worked out that would convey the story while still protecting sources and techniques.

4. Mr. Blakey indicated that at this point he felt that a number of issues in our paper would prove irrelevant to his investigation. I told him that I was of the opinion that a number of them are irrelevant to the issue, but that we were addressing the Schweiker Report rather than the broader issue. He indicated that he was specifically interested in the airplane flight that had been treated in the Schweiker Report, but that depending on how his investigation developed it might become irrelevant as well. For instance, if he concluded that right-wing Cubans and criminal elements were responsible for the assassination a flight to Cuba ceased to have meaning. However, if there was occasion to comment on that particular flight they would like to review the basis for our treatment of the subject.

5. I expressed the hope that Mr. Cornwall would not need a number of people to do the work for him, as we wished very much to hold down the number of persons familiar with some of the operational detail. He stated that he too wished to hold down the number. I expressed the hope


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that the membership of the staff would remain stable until the conclusion of the investigation a year from now. He indicated that he would be here until a year from now when he returns to Cornell, where he has tenure as a Professor of Criminal Law.

6. Looking to the time that he begins to pick the issues on which he must write I expressed the hope that we would have as much lead time as possible. Only one or two Agency persons would be reviewing the draft report, and if we had to do so on a crash basis--an experience faced in the past--it would be very difficult for us to do a proper job. He recognized the problem but made no firm commitments although he indicated his willingness to cooperate. He said that he plans to proceed on schedule and thinks that the report will be written, reviewed and published by the end of 1978.



S. D. Breckinridge

cc: OLC/Mr/ Cummins