

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10302-10024
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CIA-DI-FILES

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM : OCO/CIA
TO :
TITLE : DRAFT OF PAPER ON INTELLIGENCE RELATIONS WITH THE LBJ
WHITE HOUSE
DATE : 00/00/
PAGES : ~~30~~ 31
SUBJECTS : LBJ WHITE HOUSE

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : TOP SECRET
RESTRICTIONS : 1B
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/22/98
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : JFK-M-02:F2 1998.09.22.16:16:07:576120: ARRB REQUEST.
CIA-9.

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
88608 Date: 03-18-2025

**CLASSIFIED
ATTACHMENT**

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

TOP SECRET

(Security Classification)

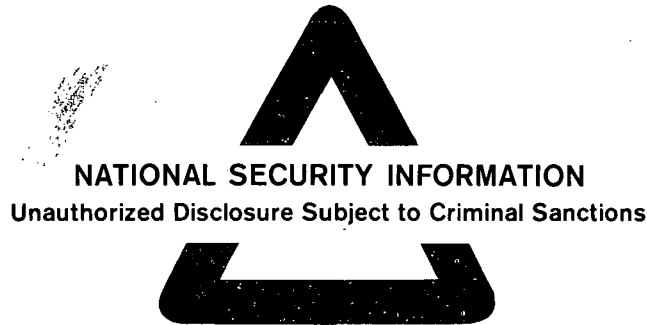
ROUTING			
TO:	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1			
2			
3			
4			
<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE
REMARKS:			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NO.			DATE

CONTROL NO. _____

COPY _____ OF _____

Handle Via
COMINT
Channels

Access to this document will be restricted to those approved for the following specific activities:



22

TOP SECRET

(Security Classification)

TOP SECRET

The American Era Begins

For most employees of the Federal government, work continues unchanged when a new man moves into the White House. Employees of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Labor-Management Services Administration, or the Commodity Exchange Authority

all go about their jobs in their accustomed ways, ~~even~~ though changes of administration policy can ultimately have an effect. ^{Even} The pattern of most intelligence work--collection and the production of finished intelligence ^{undisturbed.} for a considerable number of officials--remains ~~unaffected~~ But for

those who are turning out intelligence specifically for the President, ~~everything is apt to change as soon as a~~ ^{himself, the appearance of a new Chief Executive} ~~signals the onset of~~ ^{takes over, immediate}

~~a whole new intelligence.~~ How wide-ranging will ~~be~~ the new President's foreign countries and in international relations? ^{be} interest in ~~foreign countries?~~ How much intelligence? ^{will large} ~~will he want great~~ ^{appetite will he have for} and frequent ^{be in order} ~~servings,~~ or modest portions only as absolutely ^{requires} ~~needed?~~

Will he want ^{merely} ~~only~~ facts, or facts plus interpretation and analysis?

TS

Separated or homogenized? Is he willing to read a regular intelligence document, or does he prefer to be briefed?

In each of the previous administrations, OCI had established a satisfactory channel directly to the President. However, the system ~~is~~ had never carried over from one incumbent to the next. Eisenhower did not want the personal weekly briefing from the Director that Truman had the General received; ~~he~~ preferred to be briefed in the setting of weekly meetings of the National Security Council. Kennedy did/^{not}like to use the NSC with any regularity. Instead he found just what he wanted in the personal, daily intelligence Checklist ~~document~~ devised for him five months after he entered office.

The Checklist system worked so well with Kennedy that OCI and the Director naturally hoped to continue it with Lyndon Johnson, especially as it became apparent that Johnson, like his predecessor, was not going to have regular NSC meetings. Eventually OCI succeeded, but ^{This was} ~~only~~ after many months of frustration. It was only when ~~concluded~~

he had a firm hold of his administration and when certain foreign situations forced themselves upon his attention that President Johnson discovered the usefulness of a daily current intelligence document.

President

For a few days after the assassination of ~~John~~ Kennedy, ~~personally~~
~~R. J. Smith~~ R. J. Smith took the Checklist to ~~Mc~~ McCone at East Building at 8:30x a.m. The Director then held a staff meeting, after which R.J.

personally
 Smith/took the Checklist to Bromley Smith and Gen. Clifton in the White

The briefing of President Johnson from the Checklist, however, House. ~~From about three weeks after the abrupt change of administrations,~~
 was done by McCone, who saw the President daily for about three weeks ~~McCone met daily with President Johnson, partly with the purpose of briefing~~
 after the assassination. 1/
~~him from the Checklist.~~

Although OCI had provided more detail and background information ~~in~~ than usual in its first intelligence books for President Johnson, McCone ^{on 24 November} ~~within two days~~ passed the word through DDI Cline that ^{there should be} ~~see~~ more but shorter items. ~~(Two weeks later Bromley Smith was still~~
~~and return to a normal Checklist.)~~
~~arguing that OCI leave out the background data.~~ McCone said the President expected that topics appearing in the Checklist would be followed up in later issues; therefore, OCI should make even negative reports.

Cline, presumably reflecting the Director's wishes, said that the checklist that day should cover military activity in South Vietnam, the fighting in Laos, ~~the~~ Soviet ICBM developments, and problems in the Berlin air corridors and ~~in~~ Venezuela.

Around the middle of December, ~~when members of the White House staff~~ ^{take over the} ~~using the Checklist, tried to pick up the intelligence~~ when McCone stopped seeing the President daily, the White House staff ~~tried to get him to read the Checklist, but~~ ^{the President} They tried to get ~~him~~ to read the Checklist, ~~but~~ were largely unsuccessful, ~~tried to get the Checklist back~~ although McGeorge Bundy was able to do ~~a~~ some oral briefing, Checklist in hand. On 16 December, Gen. Clifton told ~~Checklist~~ ^{OCI's} John Heidemann, ~~that~~ "If we can't penetrate this sort of wall today or tomorrow, we'll just have to try something else." In this cloudy atmosphere, the sun came out occasionally. On the 18th, Clifton said that the staff had finally managed to get the President to read ~~the~~ "the books"--probably two or three issues.

At Christmastime, the President went to his Texas ~~ranch~~ ranch and shortly after Christmas had Chancellor Erhard as a visitor for several days. The PICL was cabled to the ranch each day. The report

was limited to notes covering important developments and any information that might be useful in the talks with Erhard. The President returned to Washington on 5 January, and the next day Gen. Clifton, who had been at the ranch, ~~xxx~~ told Heidemann that he had been able to get the Checklist to the President with some regularity once Erhard had gone.

On 8 January, however, Clifton was having difficulties not again--the President had/read the intelligence document since leaving Texas. Clifton thought there would be a ^{little} let-up in the press of business after ~~what was evidently happening was that the President found time for~~ that day's State of the Union speech. He ~~the Checklist only when there wasn't a press of other business. Clifton~~ asked Philip Kennedy for a special report, briefly treating important and still-current ~~problems~~ problems that were covered in their books the President ~~didn't~~ ^{hadn't} read. ~~xxx~~ ^{Clifton} ~~also talked at length on the problem of the President~~ ~~not getting his reading done.~~ ^{in fact, that} Clifton thought, it would be good to try the system of giving the President a summary of significant intelligence twice a week.

OCI quickly put together an experimental President's
 covering the period 4-9 January. This was taken by
Intelligence Review, ~~which~~ Richard Lehman, ~~the~~ Assistant for Special
 Projects, ~~had~~ to Gen. Clifton on 9 January. Clifton thought the
Review was the best solution to the problem of the President's intelligencex
 reading. He and Bundy, ^{were} agreed that the President would not accept a
 daily intelligence briefing. The President had instructed Clifton that
 the DCI was to see him whenever he wished but that otherwise the President
 relied on Bundy and Clifton to stay on top of the intelligence. Because
 the President was likely to ask them ^{with no warning} for the latest ^{word,} intelligence, the daily
Checklist had to continue. Clifton seemed receptive to OCI's proposal to
~~send the Checklist to ^{six or eight} ~~include~~ additional persons. He also~~ suggested that
 the Checklist periodically include a special blue-~~ink~~ or green-bordered page
 containing an operational report. 2/

The next morning Gen. Clifton called Lehman to report that
 the White House was very pleased with the Review, ^{and} ^{it} ~~which he~~ wanted ^{it} continued. It had been ~~the~~ tried on
 the President at breakfast and it had "worked like a charm." 3/

~~Procedural~~

Because the President was not reading the Checklist every day, ~~its contents known to~~ ^{it sent a few more} ~~than~~ DCI McCone wanted ~~to know~~ ^{high-level officials} ~~to know~~ ~~often sensitive~~ ~~contents beyond~~ the small circle of readers in Kennedy's time--the

Secretaries of State and Defense, McGeorge Bundy at the White House, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Therefore he obtained permission in

February to extend the dissemination to four ~~more~~ ^{additional} top officials in the

State Department, two more in Defense, one on the Joint Chiefs staff, ~~and~~ ^{plus} the

Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney-General. ^{4/}

~~Things went along on~~ ^{Besides doing the semi-weekly Review and the PICL, OCI was} ~~on the basis of the~~ ~~OCI's production of the new~~ ~~writing memoranda in response to requests from the~~ ~~White House staff and~~ ~~semi-weekly review and, the President's occasional reading of the daily~~

~~Checklist~~ ~~and briefings~~ ^{(DCI McCone was} ~~of~~ the President from time to

time ~~by McCone~~. The Checklist writers still took the publication to

Bronley Smith and Gen. Clifton each morning and received their comments,

plus occasional playback from the President. When ~~something~~ unusually

^{in the PICL} interesting items/caught his eye, Clifton would make a point of bringing

them to the President's attention. On 21 January, for example, he

reacted immediately to the "quotable Khrushchev" item and said he would get right to the President with this. A few days later he instructed OCI to keep the White House "up to the minute" on Cyprus developments. "Hours will make the difference," he said.

Gen. Clifton told James Hanrahan on 28 January that he had talked with the President about the President's Intelligence Review and Mr. Johnson had said it ^{was} ~~is~~ just fine. He ^{found} ~~finds~~ it a very valuable supplement to his occasional briefings from the DCI and he want^{ed} d without change.

*Insert * from next page*

Early in 1964, the President drew his aides Bill Moyers and Jack Valenti into the intelligence picture. He wanted one of them present when he read the Review at breakfast and he was reported occasionally as discussing Checklist items with them. Although the ~~OCI~~ PICL writers continued to meet and talk with Bromley Smith and Gen. Clifton, it began to

look as though Moyers and Valenti were ~~actually~~ taking the documents to the President.

On 25 March the President's ~~propaganda~~ plans to spend a weekend

in Texas ~~at the ranch~~ comment prompted Gen. Clifton to ~~say~~ that Mr. Johnson read his

intelligence while ~~he~~ at the ranch; he ~~is~~ often ^{was up and} ~~up and about~~ by ~~8~~

8:15 a.m. ~~was~~ asking for it. But it, ^{was} ~~is~~ hard to catch him in Washington.

The next day Clifton said that it was not necessary for the OCI representa- tives to meet him at 9:30 a.m.; The book did not move upstairs that fast.

He ~~is~~ asked that the meetings take place at 10 in the future.

James C. Graham, Acting AD/^{DDI}OCI, took up with/Ray Cline

the possibility of ~~his~~ inviting Moyers to CIA headquarters for lunch

and a briefing. Cline wanted ^{first} ~~to~~ discuss the White House problem

with McCone, but ~~first~~ ^{asked Graham for} ~~wanted~~ a little memorandum on how things were going. 5

OCI ~~then~~ drew up a statement for Cline making the principal points that

~~we~~ ^{it} had no way of knowing whether ~~we were~~ ^{it was} ~~meeting~~ the President's

needs because ~~we~~ ^{it} had no feedback from him, in contrast to the situation

under Kennedy. The reason for this was that ~~our~~ ^{OCI's} contacts at the White House

Insert on p. 8

did
~~do~~ not deal directly with the President on intelligence matters.

OCI wondered how it could establish close links to the President's

immediate staff. 6/

*When was
McLean's
position?
Did Myers come
out?*

*look for
red borders*

Things remained in ^{a confused} ~~an unpredictable~~ state for the
 only
 next few months, with/occasional indications that OCI's presidential
 publications had hit the mark. Clifton ^{commented} ~~remarked~~ in May that the Review
 was the best means of reaching the President, although ^{he said} the PICL registered
 at times when Valenti was interested in an item. One day when the

PICL was heavy on the side of bad news, Clifton said, "It's no wonder the
 President doesn't want to read this stuff--it annoys you." There were
 days when the President read and initialed both the Review and the PICL.

From mid-year on, ~~thru~~ ^{Campaign} Mr. Johnson made frequent ~~political~~ trips around
 the country. Clifton, who was usually with him, said he had more luck
 getting the President to read his intelligence on the return flights than
 on the way out, when Mr. Johnson was reviewing his speeches.

As the election neared, Secretary of State Rusk
 expressed some concern to McCone about the security of the Checklist
 and seemed to prefer that dissemination be limited to the President,
 Secretary of Defense McNamara and himself. ^{McCone passed the word down} ~~The DBI was asked to follow up~~

and also conveyed his

~~He~~

~~on this matter, and was informed ~~that~~ at the same time that McConne's~~

feeling

felt that the President should read the Checklist daily, ~~or~~ have it read to him, and should not depend on the semi-weekly Review. 7/

Ad/CI R. J. Smith responded in a memorandum of 5 November 1964 to

~~the DCE through the DDI~~ ^{believed} Smith He ~~felt~~ that the Agency would have a graceful

way of dropping some of ~~the~~ ^{readers} the Checklist ~~and~~ if the publication

were to undergo a transformation in which it would acquire a new name, a

new cover, and a new format. It would become President Johnson's publication,

specifically designed to meet his needs. To increase the ~~poss~~ chances

of its being read by the Chief Executive, it would be ~~delivered~~ produced

to conform to the President's working habits ^{and would be} by being delivered in ~~for~~ late afternoon delivery ~~so that it could be part of his evening reading~~

Smith noted that the Review, which Mr. Johnson "usually reads," was

^{timed} ~~produced~~ ~~for~~ his evening perusal. Smith also noted

the importance of finding a way to establish direct contact with the

President so that OGI could get feedback ^{and thus avoid} ~~so that it could not write in~~

a vacuum. 8/

The PDB Appears

Smith's proposal for a new publication was accepted

and was rapidly put into effect. The last Checklist was dated 30

¹⁹⁶⁴ November, and the next day the first issue of the President's Daily Brief (PDB)

was delivered to the White House. In substance it resembled the PICL,

but it had a fresh appearance, and it ~~was~~ came out late in the afternoon

instead of ~~the~~ ^{in the} early morning. Jack Valenti sent this first issue back

to McGeorge Bundy saying that the President read it, liked it, and wanted

it continued. Dissemination was cut back, so that the only persons

receiving the PDB outside the White House were ^{the} Secretary R and Under

Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary, and

one Assistant Secretary, the Treasury Secretary, and the Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs and Gen. Carroll.

~~In place of the semi-weekly Review, the Highlights of the~~

~~Week was begun,~~ The semi-weekly Review was dropped, but by 16 December

the DCI ordered that ^a ~~the~~ summary ^{OCI's} ~~sections~~ of the Current Intelligence

Weekly Review be included ~~in~~ with each Friday's PDB. The summary, titled

Highlights of the Week, lasted only until 26 February 1965, ^{having} ~~been~~ ~~with~~

failed to arouse presidential interest.

In the ensuing weeks and months, OCI was naturally watching for indications of the success or failure of the restyled daily for the President. On 13 January, ^{PDB writer} Thomas Patton, ~~PDB Secretary~~ noted that Bromley Smith wrote "The President" in the upper right ^{corner} of Copy No. 1. Patton asked whether Smith would like OCI to type this on. ~~McGeorge Bundy~~ No, said Smith, putting it on in long-hand gave it a human touch.

On 19 January, the format of the Brief was changed as a result of discussions between McGeorge Bundy and Ray Cline. Bromley Smith said he ~~was~~ liked the new format and he thought the South Vietnam item was "exactly right." The President was not interested in the names of generals and ministers and didn't follow such details.

Further experiments in ^{page size} ~~format~~ followed a talk McCone had with the President, ^{but nothing came of them,} There was even a sample Brief that the President could put in his pocket, though the thought of having sensitive material handled this way made Bromley Smith groan.

The Impact of Santo Domingo

On 24 April 1965 events took place that resulted in

an improvement in the standing of OCI publications in the White House.

On that day an uprising ~~was~~ began against the provisional government of the

Dominican Republic. The US fear that Communists might seize control of the country led to the prompt dispatch of Marines to Santo Domingo. ~~President Johnson~~
~~Johnson~~ --28 April--

By coincidence, ~~that~~ the day they landed/was also the day ~~Johnson wanted a steady flow of intelligence~~

that Admiral William Raborn was sworn in as DCI, succeeding John McCone.

Dominican
 President Johnson ~~was~~ could hardly get enough intelligence on the ~~Republic~~

situation, and Admiral Raborn was determined to provide the best service

the establishment of ~~a~~ possible. The day after he took office, the Admiral ordered/a CIA task force on the Dominican Republic under E. Drexel Godfrey, chief of OCI's Western Area.

As directed, it provided "complete and around-the-clock CIA intelligence support
 Its first task each day was to brief Raborn to

him
 to the White House." / ~~It~~ put ~~the DCI~~ in readiness to deal with ~~the~~ calls from the

White House. ~~Johnson~~ Periodically throughout the day and night it issued round-up/situation reports, and when necessary, spot reports of particular developments.

All these reports were teletyped to the White House, ~~and~~ they were read by the

Mr. Johnson, who was described by Bromley Smith as a ~~President~~ President "who eats

up information." OOI, ~~wordx~~ of course, continued to put out its regular

Dominican
publications. It was during the ~~crisis~~ crisis that wordx was received that

the President's Daily Brief had taken firm root in the White House. ~~It was~~

on 21 May that
Bill Moyers said/the President read it "avidly." 9/

The increased tempo of intelligence service to the ~~White~~ Chief

~~House~~ Executive prompted further consideration of the proper ~~channel~~ route to him.

~~Mr. Johnson,~~
the No. 1 recipient, ~~DDI Ray Cline~~ and DDCI Richard Helms agreed that

a "greased channel" through ~~Mr. George~~ Bundy should be established for the PDB

and any other reports the DCI wants to be sure the President sees. 10/

on 20 May
AD/CI Jack Smith commented/that a "greased channel" already appeared to exist

For the PDB. 11/

~~the NSC Staff (McGeorge Bundy, Bromley Smith, and the
McGeorge Bundy, as the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs,
White House Situation Room)~~

should be the place of entry for intelligence for ~~Mr. Johnson~~ ^{the President}, although informa-

copies could be sent to Moyers and Valenti. ~~They~~ Helms and Cline said ~~that~~

hectic

The ~~hazy~~ atmosphere in the spring of 1965, with the

Dominican situation coming on top of growing difficulties in Vietnam, caused the men in the White House to ask more of intelligence and to ~~tended to produce sharper reactions in the White House to intelligence and to~~ react to it more sharply. Bromley Smith said the President has a "very short reaction fuse." He wants ^{ed/} to hear/about major developments, ~~xxx~~ so rapid dissemination ^{was} ~~is~~ essential. ^{Smith} He also warned that OCI would soon be asked to report on every coup and to cover all present and potential trouble spots with high precision. He said that in the ~~xxx~~ future, OCI's reports would not say that the Valencia regime is shaky, but that "Valencia is going to be overthrown by a coup on the umpteenth July by X in Eonerville." Since this would be asking the impossible in most cases, Richard Lehman, OCI's Assistant for Special Projects, went to see Bill Moyers. He explained that ~~it was possible for~~ OCI ^{could} ~~to~~ write 50 pages of intelligence warnings a day, thereby taking out insurance against any possible contingency, but that the office did not believe ~~that~~ this would really serve the President. Lehman said OCI tried to be highly selective in warning of ~~xxx~~ coups and the like. Moyers expressed understanding of ~~xxx~~

[Handwritten initials]

OCI's difficulties, and the fire died down. 12/ This episode had

an amusing sequel about eight months later when Bromley Smith pondered

the series of army coups in the republics of West Africa. He said he didn't

think the President wanted or needed to be informed in advance of every

threatened coup. "Otherwise," he said, "you could fill the book with that

sort of thing."

INSERT from page below

Insert

the system now seemed to be working satisfactorily. OCI
 y confident that the PDB was being read regularly by the President,
 writers on the
 the/PDB team ~~wrote~~ and reactions,
 and/~~it~~ received useful suggestions, ~~and~~ criticisms, usually from Bromley Smith,
 they
 red the publication each day. *9* One day in June 1965 ~~the~~ *the*

irst paragraph of the
Lead item in the PDB said "Accumulating information suggests that Hanoi is

bringing North Vietnam to a state of semi-mobilization." The second paragraph

explained
~~said~~ that Hanoi's action was far short of classic mobilization for offensive

operations; ~~therefore~~ OCI ~~was~~ considered the move defensive and was therefore

inclined to ~~discount~~ the view of one *British expert* ~~British~~ who thought a large-scale attack

and Gen. Clifton
would soon be made across the 17th parallel. President Johnson/at the time

Insum on p. 19

The system for supplying current intelligence to ~~the~~

Johnson

President/was now working better than ~~at~~ previously. ~~under Johnson Johnson~~

~~OCI was fairly confident that the President was reading the PDB regularly.~~

To be sure,

~~OCI did not benefit from the steady~~ ^{from the Presidential} playback ^{it}

under

had enjoyed ~~from~~ John Kennedy. ^{usually.} ~~It did not, in fact, receive the direct~~

~~reactions of the men Moyers and Valenti who were closest to Mr. Johnson.~~

On the other hand, ~~OCI~~ OCI was fairly confident that the President

was reading the PDB regularly, and the writers on the PDB team received

useful suggestions, criticisms, and reactions--usually from Bromley Smith--

when they delivered the publication each day.

were at the LBJ ranch. Late in the afternoon, the PDB received a phone call from Bromley Smith, who said that Gen. Clifton had called from the ranch.

He had been shaken by the ~~The first sentence of the Vietnamese item had shaken Clifton, who was also~~ *and*

~~was~~ concerned about the whole piece. The President was out on the lake ~~at~~ and was not expected back for several hours. Clifton at first felt he should summon the President to shore. ^mSmith discussed the matter with the PDB writer, Thomas Patton, and there was further conversation with Clifton, who decided ~~that~~ simply to add the word "but" after the first sentence and continue with the ~~second~~ somewhat reassuring second sentence. The case ^{was a vivid} ~~illustrated~~ ^{ion} ~~again~~ of the potentiality of the PDB for causing excitement in the White House ~~family~~ entourage.

Foreign developments often ~~caused~~ ^{glimpses} provoked ~~astonishing~~

Column 2
Column 1?
spirited reactions from ~~the~~ Bromley Smith, but it was not often that he expressed surprise ~~at~~ ^{nature of the} ~~kind of~~ intelligence he was reading, substance apart. One such occasion, however, came when the PDB ran an item about dissension between Rumania and the Soviet Union. An intercept revealed

that Ceausescu and Maurer had complained to Shelepin that the USSR acts on the international scene without consulting its allies, just as in Stalin's time. The Rumanians cited the 1962 missile adventure in Cuba and Soviet positions on disarmament. Shelepin agreed that more coordination was needed. Smith was particularly interested in this item and remarked ~~that it was~~ "fantastic" to PDB writer Archer C. Bush that it was "fantastic" that we could get this kind of information.

Bromley Smith now and then modified or rewrote items when he felt that they might confuse or unduly alarm the President. In December 1965, for example, President Johnson ordered a halt in the bombing of ~~Hanoi~~ Vietnam ~~in~~ in the hope of getting negotiations started. A PDB item reported that Hanoi had broadcast a tough restatement of its position, making no reference to the pause in air strikes. Smith, ~~was~~ ^{this would be} afraid that ~~the President~~ taken ~~interpret~~ as a rebuff to the President's efforts, reworked the text to avoid this interpretation since the ~~emphasis~~ ^{a fully} broadcast did not constitute ~~an~~ official government statement.

~~It was clear at various times that there was a~~

~~xx~~ Quite clearly, the White House staff cringed at bad news from Vietnam. When the PDB reported in April 1966 that "the political situation appears to be rapidly worsening" in South Vietnam, and ~~reported~~ ^{averred} that Ky might soon have to take drastic measures to restore authority or make major concessions to the Buddhists, Smith remarked that the article was pessimistic, and that ~~he~~ he had later information. It was, of course, one of the perils of the PDB operation that the White House sometimes had ~~later~~ fresher reports from the field. Smith handed John Heidemann cables reporting that Ky was going to formulate a new constitution and that the State Department looked upon this ^{as} ~~as~~ hopeful. Heidemann agreed that OCI had written in ignorance of this information, but added that offhand he would not be optimistic.

A few days later Smith read that "There was no real improvement in the situation today..." and said "You're going to break the President's heart; he thinks things are much better today." When he finished the ^{whole} /dis - heartening ~~heartening~~ report, he ^S tossed the book in the air, whistled, and said, "We'll

have fun tonight. But that's no reason for not writing it as you see it."

Smith had cause for unhappiness again when the PDB had
 to report that ^a Pakistan officials felt that his country was ~~seriously, if~~
~~temporarily~~, drifting apart from the US and would probably establish closer
 relationships with the Soviet Union. Smith told Allen Valpey that this article
 was a "shocker" and that Walt Rostow would be disturbed by it. (Rostow
 had replaced McGeorge Bundy ~~xx~~ in April 1966.)

Although ~~for~~ John McCone had not taken up a ^{White House} ~~White House~~ suggestion
~~in Kennedy's time~~
 that the President's daily give occasional coverage to CIA activities, ~~RST~~
 Admiral Raborn as DCI did adopt this practice. Bromley Smith reacted
 negatively to these reports, however, apparently believing that President Johnson
 did not like them. He particularly objected in 1966 to a PDB Annex explaining
 how CIA used a portable ultra-violet light device ^{entirely} in Vietnam to detect
 guerrillas who ~~xxxx~~ had recently handled weapons before mingling ~~innocently~~
 with innocent villagers. Smith did not want the Agency to
 "advertise" in the PDB. ^{He believed that if} The President should be
 informed of some CIA activities, the DCI should
 send him a memorandum.

²₁ this time R.J. Smith was DDI, E. Drexel Godfrey was D/OCI and Richard Lehman was DD/OCI. Bromley Smith met with them and the PDB writers

Late in July 1966 Bromley Smith said that he had some ideas about the PDB and would like to get together with all the writers. He met with ~~them~~ ~~and the OCI~~ ~~in the Langley building on 3 August.~~ He prefaced his ~~remarks~~ ~~by saying that he had no criticisms~~ ~~of the President~~ ~~was being served;~~ He explained, however, He had no criticisms. ~~He was not~~ ~~convinced~~ ~~that~~ ~~while~~ ~~the~~ ~~President~~ ~~"tolerates"~~ ~~anonymous~~ ~~documents,~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~much~~ ~~more~~ ~~responsive~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~personalized~~ ~~document.~~ He wondered whether the Brief could be signed by Mr. Helms, ^{now OCI.} Then ~~it~~ it would become a personal link between the President and the Director. In regard to content, Smith said the PDB did not have to alert the President to impending crises over which he would have no control. Rather, Smith thought ~~it~~ the PDB could be most useful by ~~carrying items that give~~ ^{rendering} pithy judgments on situations with which the President is or will be faced. ~~Mr~~ Smith said these judgments would be accepted; OCI did not have to support them with argumentation or evidence. Smith emphasized that the Brief writers had to be fully up on US policies and should ~~read~~ ~~presidential~~ ~~speeches.~~ He felt the President is kept/informed of ~~adequately~~

Vietnamese military developments by other means; the PDB should carry more Vietnamese political and economic items. xMSmith urged that the Brief have more coverage of ~~should be covered in the PDB~~ Europe and said that Panama was another subject high on the priority list. 13/

OCI promptly set about adopting Smith's suggestions as to content, and Smith, ^{soon} commented that he ~~had~~ noticed the change. 14/

→ (What about Helms signature?)

Back to Morning Delivery

A major ^{alteration} change in the PDB system occurred at the end of February 1967. Seemingly all that was involved was that President Johnson decided that he would rather get the Brief in the morning than in the evening. However, this change in delivery/forced other changes. The President wanted ^{time} the Brief at 6:30 a.m., just before he began reading the newspapers. This meant that OCI's closing time on the book was 5 a.m. Nonetheless, the PDB had to

be written in full knowledge of ~~the~~ what was in the morning press.

~~As~~
As E. Drexel Godfrey commented, the schedule put "the highest premium" on making the publication up to the minute." 15/

Because the ~~PDB~~^{Brief} now had to be delivered to the White House Situation Room by 6 a.m., the PDB writers ~~would~~ no longer had a member of the President's staff up and available to receive the book and comment on it. This meant that there was no point in ^{having} the writers ^{make} ~~making~~ the trip to the White House. From this time on, the PDB was delivered by couriers. To make up for the loss of the morning conversations with Bromley Smith, an OCI staff member would visit him occasionally to check on how things were going, and there was also communication by phone.

Shortly after the changeover to the new ~~PDB~~^{for the PDB} schedule, ~~commenting~~ on the President's reaction, Bromley Smith, ~~and to the OCI that~~ said emphatically

that "we are much more certain now that he's reading it." He also made a point he was to make several times subsequently, which was that he disapproved of annexes to the Brief. He was afraid that if the Brief were burdened with an Annex, the President would put it aside for later reading--and then not

Smith thought it was an excellent idea for the Brief to summarize the conclusions of "important" national estimates. 16/

get back to it. In ~~Bromley's view~~ Smith's view, the PDB should be of a length which the President could whip through quickly. ~~It would be better if annex-type reports were sent down separately.~~ It would be better if annex-type reports were sent down separately.

Smith continued to admonish OCI writers now and then ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~careful~~ about the words and phrases they employed in the PDB. He admitted that ~~it~~ it was hard to know where to draw the line, but he ~~cautioned that~~ ~~OCI~~ ~~the~~ ~~staff~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~careful~~ ~~about~~ did not like "hopping mad," nor, As a rule of thumb, he said the writers should avoid seeming frivolous or light-hearted.

on another occasion, did he care for a description of India as an "unwilling bride."

At the President's request, OCI on 7 September 1967 began to attach to the Brief a Special Report on North Vietnam that ~~was~~ ~~dealt~~ ~~mainly~~ with the effects of the war. ~~its title was~~ The only copy to go outside of the Agency was addressed: "For Bromley Smith - Eyes Only for the President." Beginning with the issue of 6 October, this Special Report carried a new section on North Vietnamese treatment of political attitudes toward the war, expressed in statements and demonstrations.

In November DCI Helms talked with Drexel Godfrey and Richard Lehman about the PDB. ~~Helms~~ The Director expressed great satisfaction with both the Brief and Special Report. He said the latter ~~is~~ was "really hitting the mark." He urged that OCI try harder to ~~present~~ come up with items on the personalities of men familiar to the President, w ^{Helms said,} in terms of personalities. Helms also asked that the PDB give more attention to coming visits of worldx VIPs to Washington and to each other.

No major changes in the PDB were made during President Johnson's time after the introduction of the Special North Vietnam ~~Report~~ ^{Report}. To allx appearances, the Brief had evolved into a document satisfactory to the President, and it kept serving its purpose throughout the rest of the administration.

All OCI analysts who have worked on the PDB are familiar in the White House ~~is~~ holding with a photograph of President Johnson sitting with Lady Bird and his first grandson. In his handx is an issue of the President's Daily Brief, ~~which~~ ~~appears to be reading~~ ~~about~~ This homey picture epitomized the position ^{occupied} that OCI hoped the Brief had in the White House. And perhaps it did.

Subhead

The importance to a President of a steady flow of first-class intelligence is self-evident. Whatever scope and depth of information he can obtain from the public media, he still needs the intelligence that comes from the utilization of sensitive technological means and clandestine operations. He is entitled to objective appraisals based on all sources, public and governmental. In planning American positions and actions, he ~~needs~~ ^{should have} ~~the most soundly based estimates of~~ ^{the possible and probable development of} ~~how foreign situations are likely~~ ~~to develop.~~

CIA and its predecessor, the CIG, have met these Presidential intelligence needs. What they have furnished the Presidents has been determined by the interplay between the intelligence organization and the White House.

The Agency has been ~~prepared and~~ ^{learn what each} eager to ~~provide the~~ ^{President wanted}

and ~~it has tried~~ ^{and it has tried} in terms of subject matter, timing, format, /style, ~~For the most part, it~~

~~to meet these requirements.~~ ^{has} ~~has tried to give each President just what he wanted, and not bother him with~~

~~anything else.~~ ^{the Agency has fulfilled its obligation} At the same time, ~~CIA, having the intelligence in its possession~~

~~before the President, has been obligated to see that he receives the reports~~ ^(the President)

to bring to the President's attention things he didn't know he wanted but which CIA recognized the President must have.

~~it has not been foreseen and requested. he must have, even if it does not fall within any category of requested~~

~~information.~~ There has probably never been complete agreement between

CIA and the White House on what the President really needs to know, but a degree of mutual toleration usually prevails so that a President will

^{accept} read some things he isn't particularly interested in and CIA will ~~report~~ carry on certain lines of reporting simply out of regard for a President's ~~supply a President with certain reporting~~ idiosyncracies.

In serving Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson, CIA's Office of Current Intelligence found ^{was able to get} ~~a direct line to the~~

~~Chief Executive~~ its message ^{directly} to the Chief Executive,

~~although the method was somewhat different for each President's preferences.~~

although the method was adjusted to accord with each President's preferences.