

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

V. S. 57C U.S.C. 20301

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MAY 25 1973

Honorable Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Chairman, Government Operations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

*Furnished to T.J. Smith
By Frank Bartling, Army Gen. Counsel
Def. Dept. 5/25/73
TJS*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

InterAgency Committee in Intelligence

This is in reply to your letters to Vice Admiral Vincent P. Desjoux, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, and Lieutenant General Samuel C. Phillips, Director, National Security Agency concerning the so-called "Dean Papers". We have analyzed those parts of the documents concerning highly sensitive materials carrying the label "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY". As you know, the Congress of the United States has passed a number of statutes which are designed to protect the Government's cryptologic activities. We believe that the release of the 43 page document, together with a four page summary alluding to that document, and one paragraph in a White House memorandum dated August 5, 1970 from Tom Childs Huston for H. R. Haldeman, all having the label "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY", if released, would be detrimental to national security interests and be inconsistent with the statutes designed to protect such information. Further, these documents contain information pertaining to specific intelligence sources, methods and capabilities, all of which are highly classified and sensitive.

In the light of the specific responsibility and familiarity of the Senate Armed Services Committee with the intelligence activities of the entire Executive Branch of the Government, the Acting Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee met with representatives of the Intelligence Community, including the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in an effort to identify those portions of the documents which are particularly sensitive. An evaluation is being made by the Armed Services Committee with the assistance of the Intelligence Agencies listed above, and that Committee will be able to provide you with this evaluation within the very near future.

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SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
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Should you, or the Committee, find that portions of these papers are relevant to your inquiry and would require public release, I believe that the best interest of the national security would be served if your Committee would consult with us further.

I again wish to express to you our deep appreciation for your concern with this highly sensitive and important matter.

Sincerely,

H. P. Clement

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