

*Haig Cho*

ACTION

May 12, 1972

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG  
FROM: TOM LATIMER  
SUBJECT: Russ Ash's Proposal for Overview of  
FBI Domestic Intelligence Activities

Russ Ash has recommended some steps which he believes would strengthen the overview of the FBI's domestic intelligence activities, (1) by creating a new NSC committee to oversee FBI's counterintelligence and counterespionage activities, and (2) by expanding PFIAB's charter to include the review of domestic intelligence activities. Russ also suggests tasking the new NSC committee with the job of working out an agreed program of domestic collection of foreign intelligence by the FBI.

There is no question that it would be beneficial to have full coordination and cooperation between the FBI and CIA in the field of foreign intelligence and now is a good time to move in that direction.

-- I do not believe, however, that expanding PFIAB's review authority to cover the FBI's counterintelligence and counterespionage activities will help much, if at all, at least not until we get a working liaison going between the two agencies.

There is merit in Russ's suggestion that a new NSC committee be created to coordinate and supervise the FBI's counterintelligence and counterespionage activities and its efforts to collect foreign intelligence domestically.

-- This proposal is better than John Mitchell's old proposal that the NSC take back the ICIS and the IIC. Their charter is too broad, i. e. they get over into purely internal security matters not directly related to foreign affairs.

-- However, instead of creating another NSC committee, we could simply have an FBI rep on the NSC intelligence committee and put coordination on the agenda of one of the meetings.

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TKL:ms:5/12/72

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PRP HP. 5/24/11  
By WILH NARA Date 7/13/11  
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-- In any case, before going directly to the President, as Rush Ash proposes, we ought to check with John Ehrlichman to see how this idea strikes him. We ought also to check with Kleindienst and probably the new Acting Director of the FBI before going to the President.

I have prepared a memorandum from you to Ehrlichman asking for his reaction to the idea of adding an FBI representative to the NSC Intelligence Committee and of having the NSCIC oversee the FBI's counter-intelligence and counterespionage activities and its collection of foreign intelligence domestically.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached memo to John Ehrlichman.

Attachment (Tab A)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

ACTION

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MAY 26 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN EHRLICHMAN  
FROM: AL HAIG *(S)*  
SUBJECT: Overview of the FBI's Domestic Collection of Foreign Intelligence, Counterintelligence and Counterespionage

As you know, we had several exchanges with John Mitchell while he was Attorney General about the possibility of putting the overview of certain internal security programs under the NSC. However, we were unable to reach a final agreement as to which programs could best be conducted under the aegis of the NSC.

It occurs to me that now might be a good time to consider taking steps both to improve our counterintelligence and counterespionage programs and to improve coordination and cooperation between the FBI and CIA. One step might be to add an FBI representative to the new NSC Intelligence Committee which would then add to its responsibilities the overseeing of the FBI's counterintelligence and counterespionage activities. It would also make certain that there is an effective FBI program for the collection of foreign intelligence domestically. The NSCIC would also be in a position to ensure full coordination between the Bureau and the Agency in these matters.

I would appreciate having your views on this suggestion.

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