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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

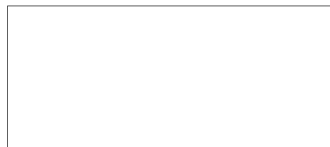
Subject: Possible Trap in Upcoming HPSCI Proceedings

1. I heard today that Chairman Hamilton is thinking about new informal proceedings that would involve Agency officials appearing before the Chairman and ranking Members of HPSCI, Foreign Affairs and, possibly, other related committees. The idea is to provide informal sessions that would prove attractive to the Agency as ostensibly giving us wider access within the Congress. "Verbal sessions" are also seen as appealing to those at the Agency who bridle against responses to the committees in writing.

2. Despite the obvious attractions inherent in the above, there is a possible pitfall. By talking informally with members of other committees outside HPSCI, we would in effect be "declassifying" the subject matter discussed. The effect of this would be that any member present at such a discussion could, in conscience, advise his full committee about the matter discussed.

3. Republican Members of HPSCI are not likely to favor this procedure and will, in fact, vote against it. However, we may, in the meantime, be receiving some rather enticing invitations to speak with all manner of congressional luminaries at the behest of Mr. Hamilton. We may wish to, but we should also be aware of what we may be getting into.

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