

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Henry-

FYI.

game friend Hersh
again.

Bunt

NSS, JCS reviews completed.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE


OUTSIDE SYSTEM

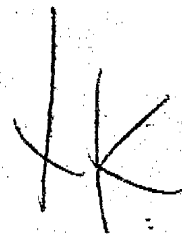
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WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

January 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: ROB ROY RATLIFF 
SUBJECT: Anticipated Breach of Security



Director of Central Intelligence Colby reports (at TAB A) that Seymour Hersh is nearing completion of a book manuscript on intelligence operations which is likely to include a chapter discussing the 40 Committee. Mr. Colby anticipates that a breach of security will occur.

In relaying this information to other 40 Committee principals I have emphasized the need to review security procedures, to continue to limit access to Committee papers, and to insure that those who do have access are fulfilling their obligations to maintain security.

One procedure we have followed is to ask that principals return their copies of papers, minutes, etc., relying on my files as the central Committee files. This limits the number of copies extant. I have asked the other principals to check their files to insure that copies of 40 Committee papers have been returned.

Attachment
TAB A

~~SECRET/EYES ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~
EYES ONLY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

17 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Rob Roy Ratliff
Executive Secretary
40 Committee

SUBJECT : Seymour M. Hersh

1. It has come to the attention of this Agency that Mr. Seymour M. Hersh, writer and correspondent for the New York Times, is nearing completion of a manuscript relating to activities of the American Intelligence Community. It is our understanding that Mr. Hersh intends to publish this manuscript both as a book and in serialized form in the New York Times. We understand that Mr. Hersh has carried out extensive interviews concentrating on sensitive and compartmented sources and procedures.

2. While we do not have detailed information on the contents of this manuscript, we are led to believe that a portion of it will deal specifically with aspects of 40 Committee actions. It is noted that Mr. Hersh has information in this connection. It is known that he plans a chapter in his book which will "deal with the (intelligence) control mechanism, and how they fail." Further, we believe that he will build information around the following outline.

"The secret 40 committee, which overviews all covert intelligence programs. The secret joint reconnaissance committee, which handles covert operations for the joint chiefs of staff. A different point of view on the Pueblo incident, which was approved as a covert n.s.a. operation by both the 40 committee and the j.r.c.

25X1

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SECRET

EYES ONLY

without one official ever hearing of the program. How? Because those important committees often don't meet but have their secretaries log entries indicating that sessions took place."

3. In furtherance of the concern of this Agency for the safeguarding of intelligence sources and methods, this memorandum is to inform you of this anticipated breach of security.



W. E. Colby
Director

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