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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C

~~TOP SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

1 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ELLSWORTH

SUBJECT: ~~TOP SECRET~~ Access for the Congressional Budget Office

We have received, through OSD Administration (D. O. Cooke), a request for eight ~~TOP SECRET~~ accesses for people assigned to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The subject was discussed with Mr. Carey of the CIA Legislative Liaison Office, who has conversed with staff members of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. It was their opinion that, while CBO members could be provided intelligence product briefings, they did not need to be briefed on or have access to operational program data. Subsequently, Mr. Bush has reserved for himself the approval to authorize ~~TOP SECRET~~ access for CBO members.

There are at least two issues which should be considered before granting access to the CBO. One is the relationship between the Appropriations and Budget Committees of the Congress and the CBO. The other is the degree of oversight which the Congress may wish to impose upon the intelligence function and the Executive Branch response. We do not wish to be in a middle position where granting--or not granting--accesses can be raised as an issue.

Prior to the DCI determination above, Dr. Cooke, with Mr. Latimer's approval, contacted a CBO staff member and arranged a meeting so we could determine their needs and offer to brief the top level people from the list of eight requested. This offer has not been accepted, perhaps because they understand the problems involved. I do not plan any action now, but suggest that the general subject of intelligence community and CBO relations be discussed in a suitable forum at an early date. Should we receive a request from the CBO for the offered briefings, I will contact you.

~~TOP SECRET~~
J. W. Plummer

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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D C

THE NRO STAFF

24 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER
DR. COOK [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Access for the Congressional Budget Office

The memorandum at the right contains the latest information we have on this subject. It seems appropriate as a discussion item at an early Committee on Foreign Intelligence meeting; recommend that you sign the memorandum.

[REDACTED]
Colonel, USAF
Acting Director
[REDACTED]

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