

Draft Opening Statement For Monday Night Press Conference on CIA

On Friday the Commission on CIA Activities within the United States presented their report to me. I read the report this weekend, and will make it available to the public, the Congress and the press tomorrow.

<sup>want</sup> <sup>publicly</sup>  
I thank the Vice President and the other members of the Commission and their staff. It will be obvious to all those who read it that the Commission has done an extensive job of looking into the allegations that the CIA exceeded its authority <sup>by conducting</sup> ~~and conducted~~ domestic operations in violation of its statute. My reading of the report leads me to the conclusion that the Panel has been fair, frank and balanced.

I will ask the Attorney General to study <sup>matters</sup> ~~all the evidence~~ gathered by the Commission to determine whether any action should be undertaken against any individuals.

I am asking each of the Federal Agencies and Departments affected by the report to carefully study its recommendations and to report back to me with their comments on the report.



Richard Cheney Files: Intel series, b. 8, pt. 1  
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In addition to investigating the original allegations of improper domestic activities by the CIA, ~~the~~ Commission, at my request, looked into allegations concerning possible domestic involvement in assassination attempts. The Commission has reported that it did not complete <sup>every</sup> that aspect of their investigation. They have ~~turned over to me~~ <sup>materials developed</sup> the evidence they have concerning these allegations. These have been turned over to me.

These ~~the~~ materials collected by the Rockefeller Commission regarding alleged assassinations, together with other materials available in the Executive Branch, will be made available <sup>to the Senate Select Committee</sup> ~~in accordance with agreed upon procedures~~ ~~to the Congressional Committees investigating the Intelligence Community.~~ However, because the investigation of assassination allegations is incomplete and because the allegations involve extremely sensitive matters ~~[with international ramifications]~~, I have decided that it is not in the national interest to release materials relating to these allegations at this time.

<sup>the members of the byers' matter</sup>  
I hope that ~~these Committees~~ will exercise utmost prudence in handling this information. Fairness requires that we ~~should~~ not,





based on hindsight, characterize decisions made in previous Administrations. Historians will make those judgments.

For my part, I am ~~unalterably~~ opposed to political assassinations. This Administration has not and will not use such means as instruments of national policy.

After I have studied the recommendations of the Commission, it is my intention to recommend to the Congress <sup>any</sup> those measures <sup>I find most</sup> to insure that the Intelligence Community functions in a way designed to protect the Constitutional rights of all Americans.

I state again my deep personal conviction that the CIA and other units of the Intelligence Community are vital to the country. In the months ahead as we take the steps necessary to insure the proper functioning of the Intelligence Community, we should remember that we must also be certain that the United States maintains <sup>the</sup> an intelligence capability <sup>to</sup> protect fully our national interest.





WA: Office of Press Spokesman (Ben Nessen): Draft of Prez Ford Opening Statement  
for Press conf releasing Rockefeller Commission Rpt

c. June 1975 (press conf June 8) rpt given to Ford June 6)

Edited draft - edits in office of deputy ant to prez  
Richard Cheney