

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - CIA  
INFO DATE: 25-Aug-2015

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Executive Registry

77-2003/1

(b)(3) CIAAct

6 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

(b)(3) CIAAct

SUBJECT: Briefing of Congressman Mike McCormack,  
Democrat, Washington, on the NUMEC Case

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1. Background. On 5 August 1977, in response to a request which had been previously levied on CIA via the office of the OLC. Mr. Shackley, ADDO, [redacted] PCS, and [redacted] OLC, visited Congressman McCormack's office. After an initial exchange of pleasantries Congressman McCormack indicated that he was interested in obtaining a clarification of the relationship between CIA and the NUMEC diversion issue. Congressman McCormack indicated that questions had been generated in his mind concerning linkage between CIA and NUMEC based on what he had read about the material unaccounted for issue in the press and what he had heard of ERDA's explanation of the whole MUF question. Mr. Shackley indicated that the Agency would attempt to answer Congressman McCormack's questions to the best of our ability.

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2. Briefing. In essence the attached briefing outline was used in order to give Congressman McCormack a brief overview type presentation on the key issues that were involved in CIA's interest in the NUMEC case. After the Congressman had listened to Mr. Shackley's presentation he posed a number of questions. These questions and the essence of the answers to them are recorded as follows:

a. Question: Was anyone in the U. S. Government involved in the NUMEC affair (possible diversion)?

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Answer: There is no evidence available in the material currently in CIA's possession which would indicate that there was any kind of an official policy to facilitate diversion of nuclear materials to Israel.

b. Question: As a hypothetical question only (Mr. McCormack stressed this): If President Johnson had directed that a diversion of nuclear materials occur, would the CIA have known about it?

Answer: It would appear that this is a question that should be put to those who were direct participants in the events of the time. In short, this would be the type of a question that Mr. Helms or Mr. Duckett could best comment on.

c. Question: Suppose CIA Director Helms and FBI Director Hoover had stumbled on information suggesting a possible diversion authorized at the highest level of the U. S. Government? What then?

Answer: This is a hypothetical question. In short, the answer could best be obtained by talking to someone like Mr. Helms.

d. Question: To CIA's knowledge, has any nuclear material at any U. S. site at any time been stolen or diverted?

Answer: CIA is not in any possession of any hard intelligence [redacted] which would show that any nuclear material at any U. S. site had been stolen or diverted.

e. Question: Is there any evidence that CIA has of thefts of nuclear materials planned to occur in the U. S. (terrorist, etc.)? Do terrorists abroad think about and/or plan such thefts?

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Answer: CIA

[Redacted]

On the issue of do terrorists abroad think about such possibilities, it was indicated that we have no reason to believe that occasional thoughts are not devoted to such plans. On the other hand, the translation of conceptual ideas into actual operations is a different matter.

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f. Question: Is there anything else on nuclear MUF not contained in the ERDA/NRC report that Mr. McCormack should know about?

Answer: No.

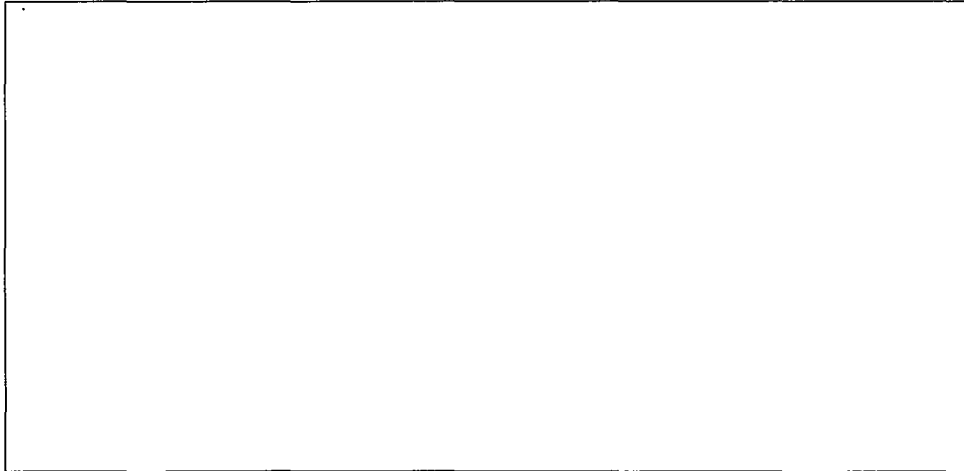
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3. Comment. At the completion of the paragraph 2 discussion, Congressman McCormack thanked the CIA representatives for the information which had been passed to him. The Congressman also indicated that he wanted to keep a dialogue going with CIA in order that there could be a free exchange of views and ideas between the Congress and the Agency.

~~Theodore G. Shackley~~Theodore G. Shackley  
Associate Deputy Director for Operations

## Attachment:

Talking Paper Outline

## Distribution:

- 1 - DCI w/att
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