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Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 17, 1975

The President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that because of an alleged breach of security you would like me to provide you with all secret documents in my possession pertaining to the House's investigation of the intelligence community. I have only one such document. It is in the form of a red-covered notebook containing three pages stamped "Secret Sensitive" -- two letters dated July 28, 1975, from Mr. William E. Colby to me, one letter dated July 28, 1975, from me to Mr. Colby in response to those letters, and some newspaper clippings which do not appear to be classified. It is transmitted herewith.

I, frankly, am glad to get rid of it for it does "in my judgment, represent a grave breach of security, and I am delighted to be able to present it to you and make a clean breast of the whole sorry affair.

This red folder containing this highly sensitive material, was lost on or about July 29, 1975, by a staff member working on the investigation. It was left in a public place. Happily, it was found by a good and loyal American who brought it to me. The contents have, I fear, been read.

It is my personal feeling that the staff member who lost it -- having shown such carelessness and indifference to our national security -- should be summarily dismissed, but it is not within my power to fire him. He is on your staff, not mine. While I detest informers, the gravity of the situation and the seriousness of the offense compel me to give you a hint with which I suspect the F.B.I. will be able to track him down. He is the husband of a member of your Cabinet.

With best personal regards,

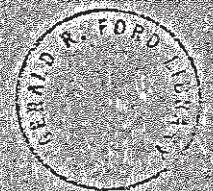
Cordially,


OTIS G. PIKE

OGP:o

P.S. If he loses it again, it's O.K., I have a copy.





Copy R into Office; Loan & Report Files, b, 14, f, "Int'l; How Select Com; Handling & Release of Documents"
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HSC: Ltr Rep Otis G. Pike - President FORD

Sept 17, 1975

re disclosure of classified information & return
of classified material to executive

SOURCE: on file



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