

## BACKGROUND

From the outset of the House and Senate Select Committees on Intelligence, you have directed the entire Executive branch to cooperate and provide materials requested by the Committee, subject to a narrow exception in the case of certain materials such as references to techniques, agents and sources. You specifically stated that under no circumstances would you permit the Executive branch to cover up evidence of illegal actions or failures by the intelligence community.

On September 10, the House Committee, chaired by Representative Otis Pike, unilaterally declassified a document containing a passage objected to by Executive branch intelligence officials. The passage contained the four words referring to a communications security.

Two days later, Assistant Attorney General Lee read to the Pike Committee a statement authorized by you, to the effect that the Executive branch would decline to provide additional classified materials until the Committee satisfactorily altered its position concerning declassification.

Although the Church Committee in the Senate has subpoenaed certain documents concerning Cyprus, we generally have a good working relationship with them as to procedure for transmitting classified information.



WH: Draft note, Vick Cheney (Chief of staff) - Prez FORD

c. Sept 12, 1975

re Pike committee declassification action +  
administration response

ARFL: GRFP: Cong Relations: Loen + Leppert Files, b. 14,  
f: "House Select Committee: Handling + Release of Documents."



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