

6 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Support
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

1. I recently have reviewed the Agency's efforts to monitor those international activities of radicals and black militants which may affect the national security. I believe that we have the proper approach in discharging this sensitive responsibility, while strictly observing (sic) the statutory and de facto proscriptions on Agency domestic involvements.
2. My understanding is that OCI carries this responsibility in the Intelligence Directorate, and that arrangements have been made in each geographic division to ensure continuing coverage of pertinent activities and systematic compilation of useful information. Mr. Corscadden's reassignment removes from the scene an experienced and knowledgeable analyst of these matters, and it is my hope that a suitable replacement will be found and developed.
3. I appreciate that there are several components in the Clandestine Service with a legitimate operational interest in the radical milieu. At the same time, it should be understood that Mr. Ober's Special Operations Group of CI Staff has the principal operational responsibility for coordinating and developing operations to collect information on aspects of activities abroad which have a direct bearing on U.S. radical and black militant movements. I expect that area divisions and senior staffs will be fully cooperative in this effort, both in exploiting existing sources and in developing new ones, and that Mr. Ober will have the necessary access to such sources and operational assets.
4. It is most important to ensure that Mr. Ober's Group has a small coterie of knowledgeable, effective officers. He needs two kinds of people: skilled analysts who can produce written material coherently and quickly, and experienced operations officers, ideally with a demonstrated ability to work in this sensitive area. If the right people are scarce and already ensconced in other activities, a select few nonetheless ought to be broken away for assignment to CI Staff.

5. A formidable obstacle to Mr. Ober at present is the backlog of undigested raw information at his disposal. In addition to assigning skilled analysts to deal with the flow of information, there is an obvious need for introducing expanded, sophisticated computer support. I understand that the Office of Computer Service possesses on-line capabilities and other facilities which not only would provide vastly improved information storage and retrieval but also affords the possibility of a data link with certain other elements of the security community. I would urge the earliest utilization of this capability. A rational combination of able officers and computers ought also to foster the twin virtues of holding Mr. Ober to an acceptable level and minimizing the number of individuals with access to sensitive intelligence and operational information.

6. It is also important to ensure that a cooperative and supportive relationship exists between the Office of Security and Mr. Ober's Group. I expect that information collected by the Office of Security as part of its normal security mission; but which has a bearing on the targets of the Group, will be provided to the Group. Office of Security checks with other domestic repositories of information, involving targets of interest to the Group, should be closely coordinated with it.

/initials/

Richard Helms
Director