

curity were not involved in this case, I wonder whether other leaks are taking place which might actually affect the security of this country.

General LEMNITZER. Mr. Bass, I am equally deeply concerned about activities of the kind which caused this question to be raised, and the misinterpretation placed on it by the individual who was involved.

As I indicated in my opening statement, I questioned his motives. I regard the deliberate, conscious and intentional leaking of classified information and documents relating to the national security to unauthorized persons as a reprehensible, disloyal and criminal act. Nothing less. All those who have access to classified information have a clear responsibility in my opinion to protect that information in the interest of our national security. That is why I am deeply concerned, also.

Mr. BASS. I am glad to hear you say that.

You spoke in your prepared statement, General, of the individual who leaked this information.

Do you know who he is?

General LEMNITZER. I wish I did.

The CHAIRMAN. After that statement, you may, and I know what would happen.

Mr. BASS. May I ask, General: Are more efforts being made to try and track down these unauthorized leaks and stop them?

General LEMNITZER. Yes, there are. I immediately initiated an investigation on my own, aside from other investigations that are underway to uncover the culprit in instances of this kind. I have a particular interest in this one.

Mr. BASS. I can understand why this sort of thing would be extremely embarrassing to you because the press has grabbed hold of it. The stories have appeared throughout the country, which have apparently misquoted your position.

General LEMNITZER. I am not worried about the personal embarrassment. That is one of the hazards of the occupation. I am, however, concerned about the misrepresentation that was attempted; that is that I, a member of the Department of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, took issue with the decision after it was made.

I submitted my comments in response to a request for comments on a draft directive. This is comparable in a military staff or the staff of a business organization, to that phase when views are being discussed and considered. That is what I frequently refer to in my commands as the "conversation stage." When views are presented, they are not always the same, that is they are not always unanimous. Life would be very simple if they were. When the responsible authority considers all the points of view and makes his decision, then it is up to everyone to carry that decision out wholeheartedly. Otherwise they don't have any place on the team.

Mr. BASS. Thank you very much, General.

I think this hearing has served a very useful purpose in dealing with this false leaking of information on this particular report. I am very glad we have had this hearing and that you have been able to come up here and straighten out what actually were the facts.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Anfuso.