

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
Washington, D.C., March 7, 1960.

HON. J. W. FULBRIGHT,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR FULBRIGHT: I enjoyed very much meeting and talking with you last Thursday. As I told you, we have made available to you or your staff for examination the entire report of General Carroll on the illegal currency transactions in Turkey and had previously furnished to your staff a copy of General Carroll's summary. From this copy has been removed the conclusions and recommendations of General Carroll.

The position of the executive branch with respect to this type of advice from subordinate to superior has been stated by the President as recently as December 15, 1959, in a letter to the Comptroller General of the United States, as follows: "The disclosure of conversations, communications, or documents embodying or concerning such opinions and advice can accordingly tend to impair or inhibit essential reporting and decisionmaking processes, and such disclosure has therefore been forbidden in the past, as contrary to the national interest, where that was deemed necessary for the protection of orderly and effective operation of the executive branch."

In regard to the security classification, the entire report of General Carroll is classified. As I explained to you, the purpose of such classification is not to keep any of the facts from you or any other Member of Congress. The basis for classification is twofold: First, the four servicemen involved are presently being tried by the Turkish courts, and the information disclosed in the Carroll report would seriously prejudice their trial; second, publication of the report could have a deleterious effect on our relations with the Government of Turkey and its people.

I have initiated steps to ascertain the action that has been taken against the military personnel who admitted acquiring Turkish lira illegally. As I explained to you, there is nothing of a punitive disciplinary nature that can be done to those persons who refused to answer questions, and there is not sufficient evidence upon which to base charges before a court-martial.

I am assured that every possible precaution has been taken to assure that such a situation will not arise again, but there is always a possibility that it will in those countries where the local official rate of exchange and the world market is unreasonably disparate.

I again want to assure you that I will be pleased to answer any further questions that you might have in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. VINCENT BURKE, Jr.

MARCH 15, 1960.

HON. THOMAS S. GATES, Jr.,
Secretary of Defense,
Department of Defense,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The more I learn about black market activities of U.S. military personnel in Turkey the more I am convinced that an important foreign relations problem is involved. My con-