

Mr. HARDY. George didn't have knowledge enough to write this letter on his own initiative, because this stuff appeared in the paper, and he wasn't really troubled at all? This is just window dressing?

Dr. DRYDEN. I think he was troubled. I think he had asked informally as he does repeatedly ask about the information available.

Mr. HARDY. And then you refuse to tell him, so he comes along with this letter after you say, "Okay, if you will ask us officially for something we can release it to the public, and dress it up real nice so they will think we are really giving them something. You go ahead and ask us for it and we will reply in a letter right quick."

Dr. DRYDEN. I did not choose the method. I wasn't here at the time. I don't know the circumstances.

Mr. HARDY. I think it would be interesting to know who did choose the method, and how it was originated. Do you know who participated in this decision?

Dr. DRYDEN. Mr. Webb, as far as our agency was concerned. I have mentioned the one today that will be released this afternoon, where a totally different method is used, because it has to do with the failure of the Russians to register at the U.N. In this case the Secretary of State has authorized Mr. Stevenson to write to Mr. U Thant.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, this whole procedure just completely baffles me. We are playing a cat and mouse game in Government, with the American people and with the committees of the Congress.

Dr. DRYDEN. I think, sir, it is the nature of intelligence activities.

Mr. HARDY. Doctor, I am not talking about intelligence information.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is what this is. This is an exception. This is one of two or three exceptions.

Mr. HARDY. You determine that it is in our interests to tell the American people about this?

Dr. DRYDEN. No, I did not, and Mr. Webb did not. This was determined at a higher level in the Government.

Mr. HARDY. All right, let's say the White House did, I don't care. Maybe Mr. Kennedy did.

Dr. DRYDEN. It is the mechanisms that are set up for declassifying intelligence information. They are the people who do this.

Mr. HARDY. So this is a subterfuge which is used as a mechanism for declassifying intelligence information.

Who in the Sam Hill are we kidding? I just don't believe the American people are as stupid as you all seem to think they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Moss. Mr. Reid.

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Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, I have just one or two brief questions and one request. I believe that the chairman requested that Mr. Webb appear before the committee, and I think, in the light of the line of inquiry that Mr. Hardy has developed, and some other questions here this morning, it would be very helpful if we could hear not only from Dr. Dryden but also from Mr. Webb.

I have one minor question, and then I would like to develop this line of inquiry a little further. As a point of interest, was Dr. Simpson 1 of the 12 who has access to intelligence information?