



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

23 April 1968

Honorable Edwin E. Willis
Chairman, Committee on Un-American
Activities
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Reference is made to your request for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H.R. 15828, 90th Congress, a bill "To strengthen the internal security of the United States."

The Department of Defense supports many of the broad objectives of the bill. Many of the provisions of the bill are within the purview of other agencies of the Executive Branch and the Department of Defense defers to such agencies for comment on those provisions. Our comments are limited to those provisions which are of direct concern to the Department of Defense.

Section 101 of the bill amends the existing statutory definitions of "war premises" and "national defense premises" now contained in Section 2151 of Title 18, United States Code. The proposed change in the definition of war premises would expand the definition to include premises where war materials may be produced, as distinct from actually being produced, and hence would broaden the impact of the statute to include almost any industrial facility, regardless of its existing production or service capability. While the Department of Defense does not object to a broadening of the statute, we do raise a question as to the efficacy of a statute so demonstrably broadened.

In contrast to the broadening effect of the language just mentioned, we note that, in another respect, the definition has been narrowed,