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# The Black Vault

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The image shows a close-up of a heavy, metallic vault door. The door is partially open, revealing a complex internal mechanism with multiple locking bolts and a central handle. A bright blue light emanates from the gap between the door and the frame, creating a strong glow and casting shadows on the surrounding metal. The overall aesthetic is industrial and mysterious.

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January 30, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Your meeting with the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board at 4:00 PM today

Mr. Clark Clifford, who has been Chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board since April 1963, will introduce his Board members and explain the work of the Board.

Mr. Clifford plans to summarize the Board's recommendations on how to improve counterintelligence activities, including proposed revisions of the existing procedures aimed at preventing the Russians from penetrating our intelligence organizations.

The group is advisory to you and you can use it as you see fit. One of the major tasks it undertook for President Kennedy was to dig deeply into how the intelligence agencies operated in the Cuba situation. The Board is in a position to make independent judgments for you as to how well our foreign intelligence work is being done.

Suggested questions:

1. Would the Board report to me on how the intelligence organizations, especially the military agencies, are reflecting my current instructions to economize and hold down the number of government employees?
2. Would the Board suggest to me ways of speeding up the work which is now going on aimed at consolidating intelligence activities and ending overlapping activities?
3. Does the Board have a view as to whether Congress needs to know more about our intelligence activities than is now provided to the appropriate committees?

Bromley Smith

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