


snowflake

December 31, 2001 10:20 AM

INFO  
01/02  
1212

TO: Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld   
SUBJECT: Approving NSC Documents

334 NSC

I talked with Ed Giambastiani and Larry Di Rita. We are going to figure out a way to deal with the very short responses NSC is giving us.

Specifically, they will be in touch with Steve Beigun and try to sort out, on a running basis, what the NSC thinks is due from us. We will be tracking here to see that, to the extent we can, we get back within those suspense times, although a number are one or two days, which makes it almost impossible to staff them out.

In the event we miss a suspense, I remain of the view that it would be wrong for you to assume, and to tell others I had approved it by virtue of the absence of our responding in time. That simply would not be accurate. I request that you say that Defense was not able to respond in time, if in fact the matter has to proceed. That way you would not be leaving people with the inaccurate impression that I have agreed to something, which is not the case.

Having silence mean assent is a poor policy in that it, in fact, misinforms people.

DHR:dh  
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