

File



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

November 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Les Aspin Inquiry -- Reelection
Assistance to the President (Tab B)

Dick Wiley, Alan Woods, Bill Brehm and I have agreed on the proposed response at Tab A.

Subject to your concurrence, Bill will sign and dispatch the reply.

Sh
Stephen E. Herbits

Approved OK NOV 5 1976

Other _____

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(21 Sept 76)

Sept 76



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5/11/74
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Dear Mr. Aspin:

This is in reply to your letter of September 21, 1976, in which you asked several questions to determine whether there have been any Department of Defense efforts to assist President Ford in his reelection campaign.

DoD officials have a responsibility to keep the President, members of Congress, and the public informed of the activities of this Department, and to respond to questions from them and from the news media concerning these activities. Thus, knowledgeable officers and employees regularly provide detailed information to the White House, as indicated in Secretary Rumsfeld's response to a question addressed to him at a September 27, 1976, meeting with reporters (copy attached). The information furnished to the White House has been provided in compliance with normal practice and established procedures.

The Department of Defense is fully aware of the restrictions of the Hatch Act and of the requirement that the Department's resources, including its personnel, be used only for objectives consistent with the purposes of the appropriations which pay for these resources

1 U.S.C. 628).



I am enclosing for your information copies of a memorandum dated October 6, 1976, from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, which outlines the rules regarding political activity by Department of Defense personnel. In addition, there is enclosed a copy of our directive on "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," which also may be of interest to you.

W. K. Brehm

Enclosures

