

1 FEB 75 09 36

~~SECRET~~ 010032Z FEB 75 STAFFCITE DIRECTOR

TO: IMMEDIATE NAIROBI INFO TEHRAN.

RYBAT

PLS PASS FOLLOWING MSG TO AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM MR. CHARLES NAAS.

1. SEYMOUR HERSH OF NEW YORK TIMES CALLED OFFICE A.M. JANUARY 31 AND, IN MY ABSENCE, TOLD MY SECRETARY THAT HE WISHED TO TALK WITH ME BECAUSE IN THE SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES "HE WAS GOING TO DROP AMBASSADOR HELMS ON HIS HEAD."

I TALKED WITH HIM IN THE AFTERNOON AND I GATHER FROM SOMEWHAT DISJOINTED AND EXCITABLE PRESENTATION THAT HE IS GOING TO REPORT THAT HE HAS OBTAINED REPORT DATED MAY 1973 OF HEARINGS OF HOUSE INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT OSBORN (CIA OFFICIAL) TESTIFIED THAT YOU ORDERED HIM DIRECTLY TO SUPPRESS (HE LATER MODIFIED TO "WITHHOLD") INFORMATION CONCERNING LETTERS WRITTEN BY JAMES MC CORD. (AT LATER POINT IN CONVERSATION HE INDICATED THAT HUNT WAS ALSO MENTIONED.).

"OFF THE RECORD," HE SAID, "I KNOW WHAT HELMS WAS DOING HERE IN TOWN. HE WAS GOING AROUND BLACKMAILING PEOPLE."

HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DESPERATELY LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU OUT OF FAIRNESS BEFORE ARTICLE IS PRINTED. COMMENT: HE HAD VARIOUS OTHER MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS TO MAKE WHICH I DID NOT GET FULL NOTES ON AND WHEN I ASKED IF I COULD HAVE MY SECRETARY COME ON TO GET PRECISE INFORMATION, HE DEMURRED AND WENT INTO A DIATRIBE OF HOW MUCH HE DISTRUSTED THE DEPARTMENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. I DON'T KNOW IF ABOVE MAKES ANY SENSE TO YOU BUT I DID WANT TO PASS IT ON TO YOU FOR WHATEVER HELP FOREWARNING MAY BE. DON'T LET IT RUIN YOUR HOLIDAY FOR I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY WHO MORE RICHLY DESERVES A FEW DAYS OF PEACE.

I AM PASSING A COPY OF THIS MEMO TO BOB MC CLOSKEY WHOM I HAD EARLIER INFORMED OF HERSH'S FIRST CALL. BOB WANTED ME TO KEEP HIM INFORMED.

PAGE 2 DIRECTOR ~~SECRET~~

2. HQS COMMENT: HQS CHECKING TESTIMONY AND WILL FORWARD COMMENTS BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.

3. NO FILE. E2 IMPDET.
~~SECRET~~

BT

#9

4

4

4