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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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OTTAWA PLS POUCH ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA
E.O. 12356: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY OVER DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT
REF: OTTAWA 0210

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT
2. A CONTROVERSY HAS ARISEN OVER AN INVITATION TO DR. HENRY KISSINGER FROM THE VANCOUVER JUNIOR LEAGUE TO SPEAK AT A QTP DOLLAR A PLATE DINNER FEBRUARY 22. THE EVENT IS A FUND RAISER FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER TO BE BUILT FOR EXPO 86.
3. THE VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL WAS ASKED FEBRUARY 7 BY A DELEGATION CALLING ITSELF "THE COALITION AGAINST THE KISSINGER VISIT" TO PASS A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INVITATION TO DR. KISSINGER. THE COUNCIL DECLINED TO DO SO BUT DID SUPPORT, BY A VOTE OF UARN AN ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY COMMUNIST ALDERMAN HARRY RANKIN WHICH CALLS UPON THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMEONE, POSSIBLY A MEMBER OF THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT, TO PRESENT AN OPPOSING POINT OF VIEW AT SOME UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE. THE PRESS REPORTED, MISTAKENLY, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAD ASKED THAT A NICARAGUAN SPOKESMAN

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BE PERMITTED TO SHARE THE PODIUM WITH DR. KISSINGER ON FEBRUARY 22.

4. MAYOR HARCOURT, WHO SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION, AND THE CITY COUNCIL ARE BOTH BEING STRONGLY CRITICIZED IN VANCOUVER FOR INJECTING THE CITY GOVERNMENT INTO MATTERS THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

5. IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIMINISH THE CONTROVERSY, MAYOR HARCOURT APPEARED ON A LOCAL TV TALK SHOW (JACK WEBSTER'S) ON FEBRUARY 9. THE MAYOR STATED THAT HE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO AN EFFORT TO PREVENT DR. KISSINGER, OR ANYONE ELSE, FROM SPEAKING IN VANCOUVER, BUT HE THOUGHT IT A MISTAKE FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER, OF WHICH HE IS A PATRON, TO BE INVOLVED IN SPONSORSHIP OF SOMEONE WHOSE VISIT WOULD BE UNWELCOME TO A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN VANCOUVER. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY UPSET BY AN INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE USSR AFTER THE AFGHANISTAN INVASION. THE MAYOR DENIED A PRESS REPORT THAT HE COMPARED DR. KISSINGER TO **KLAUS BARBIE**.

6. WHEN I TALKED TO MAYOR HARCOURT THIS MORNING, FEB. 9, HE ELABORATED ON SOME OF THE POINTS THAT HE MADE ON THE JACK WEBSTER SHOW. HE SAID THAT THE **KLAUS BARBIE** MISUNDERSTANDING WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE, AND DENIED THAT HE HAD INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO COMPARE DR. KISSINGER TO BARBIE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS MERELY RESPONDING TO AN ARGUMENT THAT INVITING CONTROVERSIAL PERSONS IS DESIRABLE BECAUSE IT RAISES MORE MONEY FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER. HE USED BARBIE, HE ASSURED ME, MERELY AS AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF A CONTROVERSIAL PERSON WHOM IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO INVITE. THE MAYOR SAID THAT IN HIS PRIVATE VIEW IT WAS ALSO INAPPROPRIATE TO INVITE DR. KISSINGER, BECAUSE THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER IS A NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THAT SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICAL CONTROVERSY.

7. THE MAYOR TOLD ME THAT HE HAS KNOWN ABOUT THE INVITATION TO DR. KISSINGER FOR SOME TIME AND PLANNED NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT PUBLICLY, BUT WAS FORCED TO DO SO WHEN RANKIN PRESENTED HIS RESOLUTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, PRIVATELY, THAT THE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE ACTION THAT HE AND THE CITY COUNCIL TOOK IS STRONGLY NEGATIVE. "THAT'S POLITICS," HE SAID. "I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE MY LUMPS."

8. I ALSO DISCUSSED THIS AFFAIR WITH TWO MODERATE NON-NDP MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, MAY BROWN AND MARGUERITE FORD, BOTH OF WHOM VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. THEY BOTH THOUGHT THAT THE MAJOR HAD MISHANDLED THE ISSUE AND HAD UNNECESSARILY ADDED TO THE CONTROVERSY BY DECLARING PUBLICLY HIS OWN PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THE INVITATION TO DR. KISSINGER EN ISSUED. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL'S ACTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN NON-CONTROVERSIAL. THE COUNCIL HAD REJECTED THE PLEA OF "THE COALITION AGAINST THE KISSINGER VISIT" FOR A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING OR OPPOSING THE KISSINGER VISIT. THE COUNCIL HAD ONLY AGREED THAT AT SOME SUBSEQUENT OCCASION IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SPONSORING GROUP TO PRESENT A SPEAKER HAVING A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW. MAY BROWN SAID THAT SHE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE WHAT ANY NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER, WOULD WANT TO DO IN ANY CASE.

9. COMMENTS. HOWEVER NON-CONTROVERSIAL THE MODERATE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MAY HAVE THOUGHT THEIR RESOLUTION ON THE KISSINGER VISIT TO BE, IT HAS CREATED, TOGETHER WITH THE

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MAYOR'S COMMENTS, A SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC CONTROVERSY. AS A RESULT, ALDERMAN HARRY RANKIN AND OTHER RADICALS HAVE RECEIVED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY FOR THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE KISSINGER VISIT. TO SOME DEGREE, THE CITY COUNCIL HAS DISCREDITED ITSELF BY MEDDLING IN AFFAIRS THAT SHOULD NOT CONCERN IT, AND MAYOR HARCOURT, WHO IS A MODERATE IN THE NDP SPECTRUM HERE, HAS HURT HIMSELF WITH MODERATE VOTERS WHOSE SUPPORT HE WILL NEED IN THIS MUNICIPAL ELECTION YEAR. THE INCIDENT MAKES CLEAR THAT SOME DEMONSTRATIONS ARE TO BE EXPECTED AT THE TIME OF DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO VANCOUVER, BUT THESE WILL BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL BY THE RCMP AND THE VANCOUVER POLICE.

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE AND REFTEL TO DR. KISSINGER. OGG

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