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afra

OLC #78-2186

Executive Registry
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14 JUN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation of 14 June 1978 (*with President*)

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1. Engaged in a substantial discussion of the leak situation, with particular reference to the [redacted] leak. I pointed out that while this was in the NID and had been on the Hill, it had recently been briefed mainly in the White House, in the State Department, and in Defense only to Harold Brown.

a. I was explicitly directed in the future not to disclose sources, even to the President; if he wanted them, he would ask for them. If Vance, Brown or others wanted them, I should indicate that the President did not want them so informed.

b. I pointed out that in each of the four committees I visited last week, I was pilloried to one degree or another for failure to produce evidence. The Vice President pointed out that previously Congressional leaders had never demanded names of sources but apparently that was changing. I said that they still would not admit to asking for the name of a source but each was pressing to get closer and closer to it. Brzezinski suggested I draw up a list of leaks in the last year and the damage done. I asked if he would meet with Bayh and Boland on this; he suggested using an abbreviated list of the type Brzezinski had described. The response was that a meeting would be fine and perhaps should include Church and Zablocki.

2. The paper Eloise Page prepared was far too long. Please redo this from a community point of view with a two- or three-line description of each major leak and a two- or three-line damage assessment. Don't fail to include things like the [redacted] leak. Public Affairs, OLC, DDO and NFAC please all work together on this.

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