

June 3, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEX BUTTERFIELD

FROM: Al Haig

Reference your memorandum of June 2 concerning activities of CIA with respect to the strategic threat and their impact on ABM legislation. Henry Kissinger had a meeting with Dick Helms on June 2 and discussed this problem in considerable detail. You may be assured that Helms is aware of the President's views on this matter. In addition Dr. Kissinger has been involved in a complete review of the intelligence communities' assessment of the Soviet threat with the objective of insuring that all concerned are aware of where divergencies exist and why. So far we are encouraged by progress made and we are confident that future fiascos will be minimized.

MORI per C05106126

SECRET

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

OSD Review Completed

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1969

PLEASE TREAT AS CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

After reading a number of press reports (some which hint and some which state openly) that CIA is undercutting Secretary Laird and providing ammunition for ABM opponents, the President addressed, in the strongest terms, these comments to you:

- "Henry -- (1) Give Helms unshirted hell for this!
- (2) We know these reports are at least partly true (via his Georgetown underlings).
- (3) Tell him to crack down ... and tell Cushman as well."

AB
ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD

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WASHINGTON

June 2, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

The President is becoming increasingly concerned over repeated reports of contradictions within the intelligence community . . . reports which make for headlines such as this one (found on Page 2 of yesterday's NEW YORK TIMES) -- "Nixon Critics Say Intelligence Gap Clouds ABM Issue". The thrust, of course, is that the arguments being made by Secretary Laird about the SS-9 threat are being contradicted by secret CIA briefings given to Safeguard critics in the Senate. According to the TIMES, "as seen by ABM opponents, this 'intelligence gap' goes to the heart of the argument over whether or not there is a military necessity to start immediate deployment of the Safeguard system."

He would like your opinion right away as to what should be done.

A
ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD