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February 1, 1971

## MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: Soviet Oceanography Vessel May Visit Miami

At the end of December, the Soviet Embassy requested permission for one of its oceanographic ships to call at Miami February 2-4. By January 21 the Port Security Committee had advised State that it cleared the visit. State shortly thereafter told the Soviets the visit was approved (State sent you an information memorandum, Tab A, just prior to their notification to the Soviets). As it develops, the ship may not call in Miami, and in any event not earlier than next week. For the past ten days State has been requesting confirmation of the visit from the Soviet Embassy, but the Soviets claim they cannot yet confirm it (the ship at the moment is in the vicinity of the Azores).

Whether or not the ship in fact arrives, the Soviets at least know that we have approved its visit to Miami. We had denied or postponed their last two requests in December for calls at Boston and Miami because of their coincidence with the Lithuanian defector case and the Leningrad trials, respectively. State was concerned that another denial could halt our growing beneficial oceanographic contacts with the Soviets, as well as make it more difficult for us to resist the retrogressive international trend toward restricting research in coastal waters.

The intelligence community is unaware of any covert or military operations of this ship. Nevertheless, there is always the distinct possibility that organizations of the extreme right will charge that the USG is assisting a Soviet vessel which is undoubtedly carrying out operations useful to Soviet submarine activity in the Caribbean.

State Dept. review completed

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

AD:hc

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