

CONFIDENTIAL



10 Downing Street
Whitehall

8 February 1971

Dear General Haig,

You will remember that we spoke on 3 February on the telephone, when the Prime Minister wanted to call the President, and made an arrangement for them to speak at midday your time (6 p.m. our time).

We here thought that, in view of the sensitivity of the subject, the conversation ought to be held on the secure voice (Belgard) channel and this channel was accordingly set up. My people got in contact with the White House Communications Agency on Belgard, but it seemed that they (the WHCA) were surprised to receive the call. When the Prime Minister was ready to speak, your people appeared not to know that he wished to talk to the President and, in the event, the President came through instead on an open (insecure) channel.

I am wondering whether there was some technical trouble that made this necessary; but I am chiefly anxious to be sure that the uncertainties were not attributable to any failure on our part at this end. It is obviously important that the arrangements for using this channel should be in good order and well understood on both sides, in case they need to be used at short notice.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

*Yours sincerely
Robert Armstrong*

Brigadier-General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

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