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EYES ONLY

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ZNY RMNSH
O 140839Z ZYH
FM PARIS
TO THE WHITE HOUSE
ZEM

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CONFIDENTIAL EYES ONLY 140839Z SEP 71 [Redacted]

FOR MR. KISSINGER
FM AMBASSADOR WATSON, PARIS 416

THIRTEEN YOUNG FRENCH DEPUTIES WILL BE IN THE US OCT. 3-13 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD ROUND OF VERY SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE FORD FOUNDATION. THE INSPIRATION ON THE FRENCH SIDE HAS BEEN GAULLIST DEPUTE ALAIN TERRENOIRE WHO WILL LEAD THE GROUP IN OCTOBER. ON THE AMERICAN SIDE CONGRESSMEN DONALD REIGLE OF MICHIGAN AND THOMAS FOLEY OF WASHINGTON HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN THIS BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO US-FRENCH RELATIONS.

I UNDERSTAND MESSRS. REIGLE AND FOLEY WILL BE ASKING YOU TO RECEIVE THE FRENCH GROUP AND TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT A VERY BRIEF CALL ON THE PRESIDENT. THE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH GROUP ARE ALL ABOUT FORTY YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER AND ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO MAKE THEIR POLITICAL WEIGHT FELT IN A LOWER HOUSE STEEPED IN THE WAYS OF THE PAST. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE VALUABLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A SESSION WITH YOU AND I HOPE YOU CAN WORK THEM INTO YOUR CALENDAR. THIS PLUS A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR TRIP, BUT IN ALL GOOD FAITH I CANNOT RECOMMEND THE LATTER. IF, HOWEVER, AN APPROPRIATE PRESIDENTIAL FUNCTION TOOK PLACE WHEN THE GROUP HAPPENED TO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, PERHAPS OUR FRENCH FRIENDS COULD AT LEAST CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE PRESIDENT.
WARM REGARDS.

WATSON

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI C05146533

State Dept. review completed

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