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ACTION

January 11, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG

THROUGH: COLONEL KENNEDY

FROM: JOHN A. FROEBE, JR.

**SUBJECT: Press Guidance on Intended Chinese
Re-defection Case: LIAO Ho-shu**

State and CIA are asking our press guidance in the case of LIAO Ho-shu, the former Charge of the PRC Embassy in the Hague who defected in late 1969. He has been in this country since, but recently has become dissatisfied with life here and wrote the President December 21 that he wanted to return to China. State picked the matter up, and, coordinating with CIA, ascertained from LIAO that he indeed wants to return but has not been able to get a positive response from PRC authorities that they will have him back. (He told State and CIA that he had made contact with the PRC U. N. delegation, but was unable to get a clear response from them.) State and CIA are now considering this aspect of the matter.

At the State noon press briefing yesterday, press spokesman Bray, after denying a report attributed to a Reverend Paul Lindstrom that 59 U. S. POWs had been moved from Laos to China, was asked by the Chicago Tribune correspondent whether Lindstrom's suggestion that the U. S. had agreed to return to China "a Chinese defector at the time or in connection with the President's announcement of his trip to Peking" was true. No reference was made to Liao or any other particular Chinese defector. *Bray took the question*

State and CIA are agreed on the following response, which Bray, not having been able to offer it at today's noon press briefing, would telephone to the Chicago Tribune correspondent this afternoon. (This would give less attention to it than if announced at the full press briefing.)

"I would call *to* your attention the standing USC policy on defectors and redefectors: If an individual who has been granted permission to come

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to our country, and is therefore legally here and in good standing, wishes to repatriate of his own free will, the USC will respect his wishes and will permit him to do so. We will not forcibly deport any such legally admitted individual.

"As regards the suggested connection between a Chinese defector and the President's coming visit to the People's Republic of China, I would emphasize, as we have said on many occasions, that neither we nor the PRC authorities have asked nor agreed to any pre-conditions in connection with the President's China visit."

Recommendation:

That you approve the recommended press guidance as stated above.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

JAF:psm 1/11/72

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