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FM GEN HAIG
TO LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER
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S E C R E T SENSITIVE WH29472

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SEPTEMBER 25, 1972

FROM: GENERAL HAIG

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

WE HAVE RECEIVED THE ATTACHED FBIS ITEM ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF THE THREE PRISONERS FROM HANOI. WE ALSO HAVE CORROBORATING INTELLIGENCE TO THIS EFFECT. WE ALSO HAVE INFORMATION THAT MAJOR ELIAS IS PREPARED TO PUT HIMSELF INTO U.S. HANDS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE POINT. ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO HOLD ALL OF OUR EARLIER PRESS GUIDANCE AND JUST HAVE NO COMMENT THIS MORNING NOTING THE REPORTS OF THEIR RELEASE. THESE REPORTS, OF COURSE, UNDERCUT MCGOVERN ENTIRELY, ALTHOUGH WE WILL REMAIN PREPARED TO BLAST HIM HARD IF HE SHOULD HIT US AGAIN.

WE ARE NOW FACED WITH A WHOLE NEW RANGE OF PROBLEMS. THUS FAR, OUR RESERVED POSTURE HAS OBVIOUSLY MADE MCGOVERN LOOK QUITE FOOLISH. THE NEXT SET OF PROBLEMS ARE GOING TO BE MORE DIFFICULT. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE POW'S WILL TRAVEL FROM NANNING TO PEKING, FROM PEKING TO MOSCOW, AND THENCE TO SWEDEN OR PERHAPS DENMARK. IT IS THE CONSENSUS HERE THAT WE SHOULD ASK THE SOVIET UNION TO SPOT A MEDEVAC AIRCRAFT AND IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT MOSCOW WILL TURN DOWN THIS REQUEST. THIS IS A MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY. IN THE EVENT THAT THEY DO PERMIT THE AIRCRAFT TO BE SPOTTED BUT PERHAPS REFUSE US ACCESS TO THE PRISONERS OR IN THE EVENT THAT THEY TURN US DOWN. IN THE LATTER CASE, WE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE VERY CAREFULLY HOW HARD TO PUSH THE ISSUE. THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WILL FACE US IN SWEDEN OR COPENHAGEN IN THE EVENT THE PARTY GETS THAT FAR BEFORE THEY MAKE THEIR CHOICE.

AM CONFIDENT THAT SILENCE IS THIS MORNING'S BEST COURSE TO PURSUE SINCE EVENTS PLAYED INTO OUR HANDS AND WE DID NOT HAVE TO UNDERCUT MAJOR ELIAS. WE STILL HAVE OUR TRUMP CARD IN THE EVENT MCGOVERN CONTINUES TO ATTACK, SINCE OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET SURFACED. IT IS MY STRONG VIEW THAT WE SHOULD REMAIN IN A HOLDING PATTERN WITH RESPECT TO THOSE INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL WE FACE THE NEXT CRISIS, PROBABLY IN MOSCOW. WE WILL NEED YOUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON HOW TO PLAY THE MOSCOW TEST.

END PAGE ONE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

NEW SUBJECT: GUAY WILL PROCEED WITH PORTER AS OUTLINED
IN HAKTO 1.

I HAVE SPOKEN TO WALTER, GOTTEN THE NAMES, AND PASSED THEM TO IDAN. I WILL PROCEED TO GIVE WALTER GUIDANCE BASED ON THE RETURN CALL UNLESS YOU WOULD RATHER DO IT YOURSELF UPON YOUR RETURN.

WARM REGARDS.

560

DPMO review completed.