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SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 06/20/74//171

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

ANNOTATIONS:
 MCFARLANE, SEC FILE

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE
 O 111819Z JUN 74
 FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 027//

TO RODMAN FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

INFO LES JANKA

UNCLAS WH41785

TOHAK 027

STAR NEWS 6-11-74
 WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.:

QUIT BUGGING KISSINGER

THE OTHER DAY I TURNED ON THE TELEVISION AND WAS ACCOSTED BY DAVID HALBERSTAM REFERRING TO HENRY KISSINGER AS "THAT RUGGER". HALBERSTAM LIVES IN A GLASS HOUSE, ONE OBSERVES PARENTHETICALLY. AFTER ALL, WHAT IS OBNOXIOUS ABOUT BUGGING IS THE VIOLATION OF PRIVACY, AND HALBERSTAM'S MOST FAMOUS BOOK CONSISTS VERY SUBSTANTIALLY IN VIOLATIONS OF PRIVACY.

IF A TELLS B SOMETHING IN CONFIDENCE, AND B TELLS IT TO HALBERSTAM WHO PUBLISHES IT, THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM HALBERSTAM BUGGING A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A AND B, BUT NOT SO VERY MUCH DIFFERENT, IT SEEMS TO ME, AS TO JUSTIFY HOMILIES BY HALBERSTAM AT THE EXPENSE OF BUGGERS.

THEY ARE REALLY AFTER KISSINGER THESE DAYS ON THE MATTER OF DID HE OR DID HE NOT INITIATE THE BUGGING OF SOME OF HIS SUBORDINATES, OR INDEED OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, DURING THE 1969-1971 PERIOD, AND IT IS USEFUL TO CONSIDER THE ARGUMENTS AND THEIR PROGRESSIVE DERAILMENT AT THE HANDS OF KISSINGER'S MOST VEHEMENT CRITICS.

--WHEN THE HEADLINES REPORT TRIUMPHANTLY THAT "NO SECURITY

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SECFILE

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INFORMATION/GARNERED BY WIRETAPS" REALLY NOTHING VERY MUCH IS PROVED. IT IS NOT PROVED THAT THE WIRETAPS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. TO SAY, "NO ENEMY PLANES/DETECTED BY DOD RADAR", IS NOT AN ARGUMENT FOR DISESTABLISHING THE DEW LINE NETWORK. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT THE 13 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FOUR NEWSMEN WHO WERE WIRETAPPED DID NOT, OVER THE WIRE-TAPPED TELEPHONE, DISCUSS THE NATIONAL SECURITY SECRETS THE EXECUTIVE WAS SEEKING TO PROTECT. IT DOES NOT EVEN MEAN, BY THE WAY, THAT THE GENTLEMEN IN QUESTION WERE CONCLUSIVELY INNOCENT. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT THEY WERE NOT CAUGHT.

--KISSINGER WAS ASKED BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT, DURING THE HEARINGS ON KISSINGER'S APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF STATE, A QUESTION I REMEMBER AT THE TIME THINKING OF AS HIGHLY INDELICATE. IT WAS THE QUESTION: DID KISSINGER HIMSELF INITIATE A WIRETAP OF ANY SINGLE INDIVIDUAL? KISSINGER REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, AND, WHEN PRESSED, SAID ONLY THAT HE HAD ACQUIESCED IN THE GENERAL NOTION THAT SURVEILLANCE OF SOME SORT WAS PROPER UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE REASON I THOUGHT SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S QUESTION INDELICATE, AS ALSO THE QUESTIONS OF THOSE WHO ARE NOW TORMENTING KISSINGER ON THE POINT, IS THIS: IF THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE IS ESTABLISHED THAT THE EXECUTIVE IS ENTITLED TO GUARD THE SECRECY OF ITS INNER-MOST DELIBERATIONS--WHETHER, FOR INSTANCE, TO TILT TOWARDS INDIA OR TOWARDS PAKISTAN; WHAT FALLBACK POSITION WE ARE WILLING TO TAKE WITH THE RUSSIANS AT HELSINKI; THAT KIND OF THING -- THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT IF THE SECRETS ARE LEAKING, IT IS NECESSARY TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP THE LEAK. (WHO SAYS A MUST SAY B.)

IF KISSINGER WAS PRESSED TO GIVE THE NAMES OF ONE OR MORE PEOPLE WHOM HE HAD OBSERVED TO BE A LITTLE LOOSE-MOUTHED, LOYALTY WOULD REQUIRE THAT HE NOT DISCLOSE THIS PUBLICLY. BECAUSE, FOR ONE THING TO BE A LITTLE LOOSE-MOUTHED IS NOT NECESSARILY A CRITICAL DISQUALIFICATION.

AND FINALLY, I RETURN TO THE POINT OF THE "BONDED BUGGER." NO DECENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SHOULD PERMIT HIMSELF TO LOOK AT THE LOGS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS EXCEPT INSOFAR AS THEY DEAL WITH GOVERNMENT SECRETS. THESE EXCERPTS, IF THEY OCCUR AT ALL, SHOULD BE PULLED OUT OF THE TELEPHONE LOGS BY AN ANONYMOUS AND HIGHLY TRUSTED CIVIL SERVANT PLEDGED WITH PRIESTLY GRAVITY TO GUARD THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONVERSATIONS EXTRINSIC TO THE POINT IN QUESTION. THESE LOGS SHOULD BE INSTANTLY BURNED, AND THE BONDED BUGGER PROTECTED BY LAW AGAINST ANY QUESTIONING ABOUT THEM.

WHY ARE THESE ELEMENTARY SUBTLETIES ESCAPING THE ATTENTION OF THE REFINED INQUISITORS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION? IS IT BECAUSE THEY ARE BECOMING PRIMARILY INQUISITORS, AND ONLY SECONDARILY MEN OF REFINEMENT?

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