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TO AL ADAMS FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH51093

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WASHINGTON POST JUNE 28, 1975

ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK

ROCKEFELLER CALLS ON RUMSFELD

AN UNDERSTANDABLE DESIRE TO PROTECT PRESIDENT FORD'S AUTHORITY, DESCRIBED BY SOME CRITICS AS "EXCESSIVE" DESIRE, HAS STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN DIRECTOR DONALD RUMSFELD, MR. FORD'S WHITE HOUSE STAFF CHIEF, AND VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER.

THAT STRAIN HAS NOW REACHED A POINT UNIMAGINABLE EVEN DURING THE ROCKEFELLER RUMSFELD INFIGHTING EARLY THIS YEAR OVER ROCKEFELLER'S DEMAND TO NAME HIS OWN MEN TO TOP STAFF JOBS IN THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL, FINALLY ACCEDED TO BY THE PRESIDENT. INDEED, IT HAS REACHED SUCH A POINT THAT ROCKEFELLER ON WEDNESDAY OF LAST WEEK (JUNE 18) PAID AN UNSCHEDULED VISIT TO RUMSFELD'S OFFICE THAT LASTED ALMOST ONE HOUR. IN LANGUAGE CAREFULLY HEDGED WITH CIVILITY AND TYPICAL ROCKEFELLER JOVIALITY, THE VICE PRESIDENT MADE THIS POINT: HE HAS BEEN BADLY USED BY THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IN THE CHAOTIC MISHANDLING OF HOW AND WHEN THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION'S REPORT ON THE CENTRAL INTELLI-

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PSN:033932

PAGE 01

TOR:179/22:49Z

DTG:282204Z JUN 75

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GENCF AGENCY (CIA) WOULD OR WOULD NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

WHAT ANGERED ROCKEFELLER WERE ANTI-ROCKEFELLER NEWS STORIES, SUCH AS THE WASHINGTON POST'S HIGHLY AUTHORITY STORY ON JUNE 6, WHICH SAID THAT "SOURCES ON THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF BLAMED ROCKEFELLER FOR PRODUCING CONFUSION AND SUSPICION" OVER RELEASE OF THE REPORT ON THE CIA INVESTIGATION. VICE PRESIDENTIAL AIDES BELIEVE THAT ONLY ONE WHITE HOUSE SOURCE-RUMSFELD-HAS ENOUGH AUTHORITY TO RISK UNDERMINING THE VICE PRESIDENT.

ROCKEFELLER INTIMATES SAY SMUGLY THAT ROCKEFELLER'S REAL CONCERN OVER SUCH TORPEDO ATTACKS IS NOT THEIR IMPACT ON HIM, BUT THAT THEY MAKE PRESIDENT FORD LOOK BAD. INDEED ROCKEFELLER HIMSELF BLUNTLY WARNED PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN LAST WEEK THAT SUB ROSA ATTACKS ON ROCKEFELLER EMANATING FROM WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS ARE DAMAGING TO THE PRESIDENT. NESSEN FULLY AGREED.

BUT NESSEN, WHO TOOK WITHERING CROSSFIRE FROM WHITE HOUSE REPORTERS WHEN HE ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 6 THAT MR. FORD MIGHT NOT, AFTER ALL, MAKE THE CIA REPORT PUBLIC WAS SIMPLY AN AGENT, NOT A PRINCIPAL IN THE HORRENDOUS MISHANDLING OF THE REPORT'S RELEASE.

NEITHER NESSEN NOR MR. FORD'S LEGAL ADVISERS, PHILLIP BUCHEN AND RODNEY HILLS, HAD OBJECTED TO ROCKEFELLER'S ANNOUNCED PLAN TO HAND THE REPORT TO THE PRESS ON JUNE 6, AT THE SAME TIME IT WENT TO THE PRESIDENT, FOR PUBLICATION THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY. THAT PLAN, OUTLINED IN WRITTEN DETAIL TO NESSEN BY A COMMISSION AIDE ON MAY 22, CONTAINED ONLY ONE CONDITION: IT WOULD TAKE EFFECT ONLY "IF THE PRESIDENT DECIDES TO RELEASE THE REPORT."

MR. FORD, RUMSFELD AND NESSEN LEFT FOR BRUSSELS ON MAY 26. FIVE DAYS LATER, ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION AIDES, ASSUMING THE RELEASE SCHEDULE OF MAY

RECALLED

PSN:033932

PAGE 02

TOR:179/22:497

DTG:282204Z JUN 75

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22 WOULD BE FOLLOWED, ALERTED THE PRESS THAT THE REPORT WOULD BE IN THEIR HANDS ON JUNE 6. WITH THE PRESIDENT AWAY, BUCHEN AND HILLS WERE SPECIFICALLY NOTIFIED ABOUT THE TIMETABLE, AND THEY DID NOT ORDER THE REPORT HELD UP. EVEN AFTER MR. FORD RETURNED TO WASHINGTON LATE ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3, NESSEN WAS INFORMALLY ADVISING REPORTERS THAT THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE WOULD HOLD.

BUT WHEN RUMSFELD LEARNED THAT ROCKEFELLER HAD ARRANGED TO GIVE THE REPORT TO THE PRESS BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD HAD STUDIED IT, HIS PROTECTIVE INSTINCT WAS HYPERACTIVATED. HE ORDERED NESSEN NOT ONLY TO SWITCH SIGNALS ON THE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT PLAN BUT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT EVEN DECIDED WHETHER TO RELEASE THE REPORT AT ALL.

RUMSFELD CORRECTLY STATES THAT BOTH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AND MR. FORD'S NATIONAL SECURITY DEPUTY, GEN. BRENT SCOWCROFT, WANTED THE REPORT HELD UP UNTIL THEY AND THE PRESIDENT COULD STUDY IT. RUMSFELD INTIMATES ALSO DENY THAT RUMSFELD HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TORRENT OF ANTI-ROCKEFELLER INNUENDO.

IT IS UNTHINKABLE, HOWEVER, THAT ROCKEFELLER, WHO KNOWS THE TRAPS AND SNARES OF THE BUREAUCRATIC LABYRINTH BETTER THAN ANYONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, WOULD TAKE TROUBLE AND TIME TO SPEND AN UNSCHEDULED HOUR WITH RUMSFELD TO REDRESS A WRONG THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

ONE WHITE HOUSE AIDE TOLD US THAT THE ANONYMOUS WHITE HOUSE STAFF GOUGING OF ROCKEFELLER "IS JUST THE OPPOSITE OF FORD'S STYLE". ANOTHER TOLD US THAT THE CHAOTIC CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING RELEASE OF THE CIA REPORT WAS AT LEAST AS MUCH THE DIRECT FAULT OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF AS IT WAS OF ROCKEFELLER.

INDEED, VICE PRESIDENTIAL OPERATIVES CLAIM RUMSFELD'S PROTECTIVE INSTINCT

RECALLED

PSN:033932

PAGE 03

TOR:179/22:49Z

DTG:282204Z JUN 75

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GOT OUT OF HAND AND INSENSIBLY MERGED
WITH A DESIRE "TO PUT US IN OUR PLACE."
WITH ROCKEFELLER'S FUTURE ON A 1976
FORD PRESIDENTIAL TICKET SOMEWHAT UN-
CERTAIN, ROCKEFELLER'S SUSPICIONS ARE
THE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE.

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PSN:033932

PAGE 04

OF 04

TOR:179/22:49Z

DTG:282204Z JUN 75

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