

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
Philip Buchen, Counsel to the President
John O. Marsh, Jr., Counsellor to the President
Amb. Donald Rumsfeld, Assistant to the President
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to
the President for National Security Affairs
William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, March 19, 1975
11:20 a.m.

PLACE: Cabinet Room

SUBJECT: Meeting

25X1

Schlesinger: This episode has been a major American accomplishment. The operation is a marvel -- technically, and with maintaining secrecy.

President: I agree. Now where do we go?

Schlesinger: If we don't confirm the mission details -- acknowledge the bare facts. It has been confirmed privately by Colby. There is no plausible denial story, so "no comment" will be taken as a confirmation. If we move now we can take the high ground -- if not we will be pilloried.

Marsh: Who would put it out?

Schlesinger: Probably me, rather than Colby -- unless the President wants to.

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President: Bill, what do you think?

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Colby: I go back to the U-2. I think we should not put the Soviet Union under such pressure to respond.

President: CBS reported from Moscow there was no official comment but that they were aware.

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