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FM LORD

TO HOOB

T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY SWH0022

MARCH 7, 1973

TO: HOOB

FROM: LORD

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOUR CUSTOMER.

BEGIN TEXT:

DURING DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HE MENTIONED THAT PRISONER JOHN DOWNEY'S MOTHER WAS QUITE ILL. PRIME MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI KINDLY SAID THAT THE US SIDE SHOULD INFORM THE CHINESE SIDE IF HER SITUATION BECAME CRITICAL. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT MRS. DOWNEY, WHO HAD BEEN RESIDING IN A NURSING HOME BECAUSE OF A STROKE, ENTERED A HOSPITAL ON MARCH 6, 1973 BECAUSE OF A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN HER CONDITION, INCLUDING PARALYSIS ON ONE SIDE OF HER BODY. HER DOCTORS NOW CONSIDER HER CONDITION TO BE CRITICAL. THE MEDICAL ESTIMATE IS THAT SHE WILL NOT LIVE MORE THAN A MATTER OF WEEKS AND A FURTHER ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT COULD BRING IMMEDIATE DEATH. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS HAD ITS OWN PHYSICIAN CHECK ON THIS REPORT AND CONSIDERS IT ACCURATE. THE US SIDE WISHES TO INFORM THE CHINESE SIDE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IN LIGHT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS. END TEXT.

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***** WHSR COMMENT *****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, LORD, HOWE

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