

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
WASHINGTON

22 November 71

General Haig:

Send to staff\_\_\_\_\_

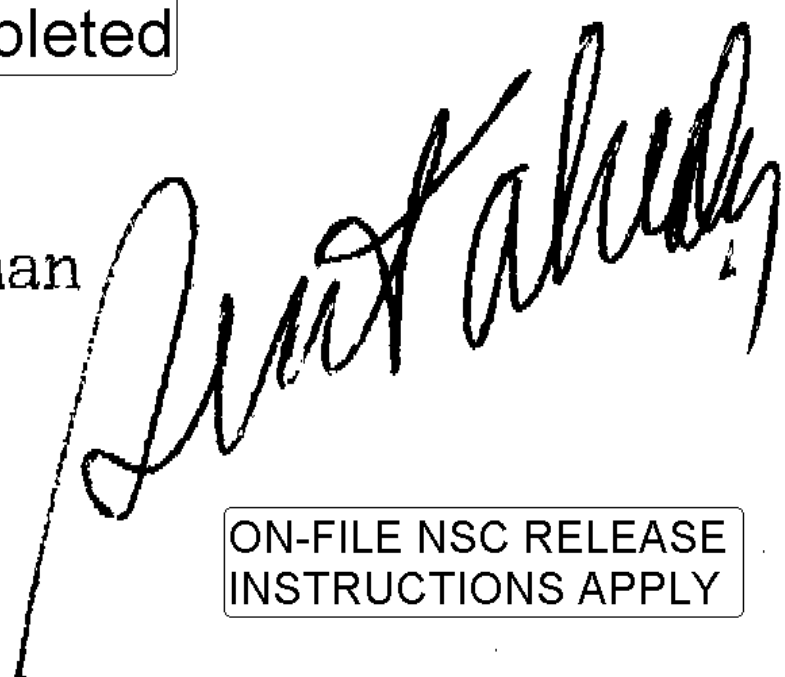
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Coleman



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TO THE WHITE HOUSE  
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FM: AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH, SALT DELEGATION SALT VIENNA 964  
TO: DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER, THE WHITE HOUSE

DEAR HENRY:

IN SESSION WITH SEMENOV NOVEMBER 21ST HE GAVE ME A RATHER GRIM REACTION TO OUR INSISTANCE ON CONCENTRATION ON OFFENSIVE MEASURES. HE PLANS THIS WEEK TO OUTLINE SOVIET OFFENSIVE VIEWS AND I THINK WILL LATER TABLE SOME SORT OF A TEXT. HE STRESSES THAT THIS IS NOT BECAUSE OF ARGUMENTS THAT I HAVE BEEN MAKING, BUT BECAUSE MOSCOW WANTS TO MEET US HALFWAY. HE EARLIER HAD SPOKEN OF A "CONCESSION" BY THE USSR IN GETTING ON NOW WITH THE OFFENSIVE MEASURES

QUESTION BEFORE ABM HAD GOTTEN FURTHER. I ASSUME THAT IN VIEW OF OUR NUDGES AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON OUR INSISTING ON OFFENSIVE MEASURES DISCUSSION, HE IS TRYING TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS ARE BEING PRESSURED INTO OFFENSIVE MEASURES DISCUSSIONS.

HE MAY ALSO BE CONCERNED THAT WE WILL INSIST ON DISCUSSING OFFENSIVES ONLY DURING BALANCE OF YEAR. ON THIS SCORE, HE IS RESISTING

FIRMLY MY SUGGESTION THAT WE TAKE A CHRISTMAS BREAK FROM DECEMBER 17TH TO JANUARY 7TH TO PERMIT OUR PEOPLE TO HAVE SOME TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES. (A NUMBER OF SALT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABSENT FROM HOME ONE YEAR OUT OF THE LAST TWO.) SEMENOV WANTS TO KNOCK OFF FOR THREE DAYS AT CHRISTMAS AND THREE DAYS AT NEW YEARS. HE DOES NOT THINK WE CAN COVER ALL THE ABM/OFFENSIVE GROUND BEFORE DECEMBER 17TH. HE SEEMED SENSITIVE TO MY CLAIM THAT IF WE WOULD WORK AT A LESS LEISURELY PACE WE COULD CLEARLY COVER THE GROUND. HE HAS IN MIND A RECESS SOME TIME AT OR AFTER THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY -- AND A RETURN HERE AFTER ABOUT A MONTH TO BUTTON THINGS UP PRE-SUMMIT. I PLAN TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, AND THEN BE IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD MAKE SENSE FOR FARLEY TO TAKE OVER HERE FOR A WHILE OR FOR ME TO STAY ON HERE.

SEMENOV WOUND UP BY SAYING: "IF WE ARE GOING TO ADD PROCEDURAL ISSUES TO OUR SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES, WE COULD FIND OURSELVES IN A "PALAIS ROSE" SITUATION.

WARM REGARDS.

GERRY SMITH

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