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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY WHP0124

FROM R.T. KENNEDY

TO COLONEL GUAY

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FOR: GENERAL HAIG

1972 NOV 22 PM 1 23

FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY

NOVEMBER 22, 1972

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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

HALDEMAN CALLED ME AT THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST. AFTER READING MR. KISSINGER'S REPORT LAST NIGHT, THE PRESIDENT FELT THAT HE SHOULD ARM HIM WITH A STRONG STATEMENT. HALDEMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT A DIRECTIVE. IT IS PROVIDED FOR MR. KISSINGER' USE ON A WHOLLY DISCRETIONARY BASIS TO BE INTRODUCED WHEN AND IF HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO DO SO IN AN EFFORT TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. IT SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS THE PRESIDENT GIVING AN ORDER TO MR. KISSINGER. HE SIMPLY BELIEVED THAT ON THE BASIS OF MR. KISSINGER'S REPORT YESTERDAY HE SHOULD ARM HIM WITH THIS NOW.

THE MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PRESIDENT IS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, UNLESS THE OTHER SIDE SHOWS THE SAME WILLINGNESS TO BE REASONABLE THAT WE ARE SHOWING, I AM DIRECTING YOU TO DISCONTINUE THE TALKS AND WE SHALL THEN HAVE TO RESUME MILITARY ACTIVITY UNTIL THE OTHER SIDE IS READY TO NEGOTIATE. THEY MUST BE DISABUSED OF THE IDEA THEY SEEM TO HAVE THAT WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO SETTLE ON THEIR TERMS. YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM DIRECTLY WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION THAT WE DO HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE AND IF THEY WERE SURPRISED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE THE STRONG ACTION HE DID PRIOR TO THE MOSCOW SUMMIT AND PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, THEY WILL FIND NOW, WITH THE ELECTION BEHIND US, HE WILL TAKE WHATEVER ACTION HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES' INTEREST."

END MESSAGE

WARM REGARDS.

END OF MESSAGE