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23068

~~SECRET~~

October 31, 1970

SANITIZED PER 3.3(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

Message for Chancellor Brandt

Attached is a personal and confidential message to Chancellor Brandt from the President. Please forward this message [REDACTED] immediate delivery to the Chancellor or an official in his office with immediate access to him.

Alexander M. Haig
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

NLN 03-39/12 PER 3.3(b)(1); HR 5/26/10

by MLH NARA, Date 11/10/10

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AMH:WL:HL

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Text of message:

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

As you know, I have recently had a conversation with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. Though it cannot be expected to bring about any major change in our relations, the conversation was helpful since it allowed for clarification of views.

Among other issues, we discussed Berlin. The Foreign Minister presented the well-known Soviet position on the Federal political presence in West Berlin, which he considered the central issue. If that were solved -- eliminated or severely curtailed -- then the USSR and the GDR were ready to find a solution to the access problems. In response, I made it very clear to him that the umbilical cord between Berlin and the Federal Republic could not be cut, that all political ties simply cannot be severed. I underscored that West Berlin cannot be allowed to become a third German state. On the other hand, I noted there might be room for common understanding if the Soviets would agree to improved access arrangements to Berlin and improved communications within Berlin in return for a somewhat lowered profile of Federal activities in Berlin.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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