

12 MAR 76 04 21z

~~S E C R E T~~ 120018Z MAR 76 STAFF

CITE DIRECTOR

TO: PRIORITY TEHRAN.

RYBAT EYES ONLY

TO AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM WARNER

1. RICHARD NIXON WAS DEPOSED IN JANUARY 1976 IN CONNECTION WITH MORTON H. HALPERIN SUIT AGAINST HENRY KISSINGER. BASIC THRUST OF THIS SUIT WAS FOR DAMAGES BASED ON CHARGE THAT KISSINGER ORDERED A WIRETAP TARGETTED AGAINST HALPERIN. THIS DEPOSITION WAS MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY.

2. IN THAT DEPOSITION NIXON WAS ASKED THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT HE MADE DURING A TAPED OVAL OFFICE CONVERSATION THAT QUOTE WE PROTECTED HELMS FROM ONE HELL OF A LOT OF THINGS. END QUOTE. NIXON'S ANSWER IS THAT HELMS WAS CONCERNED THAT CIA ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF BOOK BY FORMER EMPLOYEE WOULD SUBJECT AGENCY TO PUBLIC CRITICISM CHARGING ATTEMPTIO SUPPRESS RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION. NIXON FURTHER SAID QUOTE I ASSURED THE DIRECTOR THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD SUPPORT THE CIA'S POSITION IN OPPOSING END QUOTE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK. QUOTE IT WAS IN LIGHT OF THIS INCIDENT, END QUOTE SAID NIXON, THAT HE MADE THE REMARK TO WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF H.R. HALDEMAN ABOUT PROTECTING HELMS.

3. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE MUCH INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE.
REGARDS. E2, IMPDET.
~~S E C R E T~~

HR70-14
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008