

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY~~

DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
Date: 6-30-05

June 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: ALEXANDER M. HAIG

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with  
Mrs. Shih, Sunday, June 11, 1972

After my telephone discussion with Dr. Kissinger Sunday evening Washington time, I spoke to Mrs. Shih and conveyed to her the message Dr. Kissinger and I had discussed, emphasizing that we had just instituted the strictest disciplinary controls and were also revising our operating instructions to preclude any possibility of a repeat incident. I pointed out that both Dr. Kissinger and the President had directed this action in view of the seriousness of the reported incident and that the new restrictions and disciplinary controls were being instituted prior to completion of an urgent investigation of the matter so as to be sure that future incidents cannot occur. I pointed out that President Nixon was greatly distressed by their report and that he wished to express his sincerest regrets that an incident such as that reported over Chinese territory could occur (I carefully avoided inferring that the action we had taken or our apologies were associated with the Chinese complaint about their merchant vessel.) Mrs. Shih appeared very relieved at the promptness and character of our response and I urged her to request that the Ambassador flash this oral response immediately to Peking so that her government would be completely aware of the seriousness with which our side viewed the reported incident and of our determination to preclude such incidents in the future. I informed her that we would provide a complete written explanation of all the incidents reported to us when the urgent and detailed investigations now underway were completed.

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