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CITE DIRECTOR

TO: IMMEDIATE PARIS, TEHRAN.

COLBY AND AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM CARY

1. THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A RUNDOWN OF THAT PORTION OF SENATOR BAKER'S APPEARANCE ON "FACE THE NATION" TODAY THAT PERTAINED TO THE AGENCY. HIS GENERAL STATEMENT WAS; "...I GET THE FLAVOR OF AN ALLEGATION THAT'S MADE SOMETIMES THAT THIS INQUIRY INTO CIA IS TO DIVERT ATTENTION OR TO PLACE BLAME OTHER THAN ON THE WHITE HOUSE--IT IS NOT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IN WEIGHING THE EQUITIES I THINK IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ONE TO SAY THAT YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T FIND THAT THE CIA MAY HAVE BEEN DOING WHATEVER THE WHITE HOUSE TOLD THEM TO DO. AND THAT THERE MAY BE A CHAIN OF COMMAND THERE THAT WOULD BEAR FURTHER EXAMINATION. I'VE NEVER SUGGESTED AND I DON'T NOW SUGGEST THAT SEVEN DAYS IN MAY SCENARIO WHERE THE CIA OR THE MILITARY WAS TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT AND I DON'T SUGGEST THAT. BUT I DO SAY THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CIA POST-WATERGATE, POST JUNE 17, 1972, THAT REQUIRE FURTHER INQUIRY. NOW WHEN WE HAD AMBASSADOR HELMS BACK THAT WAS NOT THE FOCUS OF OUR ATTENTION. FRANKLY, THE REASON HE WAS BACK WAS TO INQUIRE INTO THE TAPES. JUST AS WE FOUND A GENERAL TAPING CAPABILITY AT THE WHITE HOUSE THROUGH ALEX BUTTERFIELD, WE FOUND THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL TAPING CAPABILITY AT THE CIA--WHICH WE DISCOVERED SERENDIPITOUSLY. WE DID NOT KNOW IT AND WE STUMBLED INTO IT. THE QUESTION WAS PUT BY GEORGE MURPHY WHO WAS ON LOAN TO US FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY. WHEN WE ASKED MR. COLBY WELL IN ADDITION TO THE CUSHMAN TAPE ARE THERE OTHER TAPES, IN EFFECT WHAT COLBY SAID WAS, YEAH, THERE WAS A WAREHOUSE FULL OF THEM. AND YOU KNOW, WE WENT ON FROM THERE, WELL CAN WE HAVE THEM? AND COLBY SAID SURE, AND I SAID WELL I DON'T LIKE TO BE IN THE POSITION OF LETTING YOU PICK THE ONES I OUGHT TO HAVE BUT I DON'T WANT A WAREHOUSE FULL OF TAPES, SO WILL YOU BRING ME THE TAPES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO WATERGATE. COLBY IN EFFECT SAID SURE, AND I LEARNED THE NEXT DAY OR THE FOLLOWING DAY THAT THE TAPES HAD BEEN DESTROYED. AND THEN THE NEWS ACCOUNTS OF COURSE OF WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN DESTROYED BEFORE OR AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE HANFIELD LETTER SUGGESTING THAT NO DOCUMENTS OR TEXT BE DESTROYED.

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IT WAS PRETTY CLEAR THAT THEY WERE DESTROYED AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THAT LETTER. WITHOUT DISSERVING THE PRIVACY OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION, IN FAIRNESS--THAT I OUGHT TO SAY THAT AMBASSADOR HELMS SAYS YES THEY WERE DESTROYED AFTER THE MANSFIELD LETTER WAS RECEIVED BUT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING ON THEM RELATING TO WATERGATE, THEREFORE THE MANSFIELD LETTER DIDN'T APPLY. AND I HAVE NO REASON TO DISBELIEVE HIM. EXCEPT YOU SEE, I AM DEPRIVED OF PRIMARY EVIDENCE, THAT I WISH WE HAD, I WISH HAD NOT BEEN DESTROYED. THAT IS NOT THE SUBJECT THAT IS DEALT WITH EXTENSIVELY IN MY REPORT. THAT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO. CRUCIFY DICK HELMS. HE IS A GREAT CITIZEN AND GREAT AMERICAN. I'M SIMPLY TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT IF ANY INVOLVEMENT THE CIA HAD IN WATERGATE, AT WHOSE INSTRUCTIONS AND BEHEST AND WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, IT HAD ON THE TOTALITY OF THE SITUATION. AND I'VE TRIED TO APPROACH IT AS EVEN-HANDEDLY AS I KNOW HOW.

2. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SAY THAT HE FOUND CIA TOTALLY UNINVOLVED, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO SAY ANYTHING EXCEPT HE HAS PREPARED AN EXTENSIVE REPORT WHICH HE HAS SUBMITTED TO THE ERVIN COMMITTEE. THAT IN ITSELF INDICATES IT IS NOT A ONE-LINE REPORT SAYING HE HAS FOUND NO INVOLVEMENT BY CIA. HE ADDED THE INQUIRY WAS NOT COMPLETE AND SAID "... SEVERAL THINGS I STILL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DONE IN THAT CONNECTION. CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT I'D LIKE TO HAVE ACCESS TO. CERTAIN OTHER PEOPLE THAT I'D LIKE TO SEE INTERVIEWED. I FRANKLY FEEL ALL AT EASE IN NOT TELLING YOU WHAT THOSE ARE BECAUSE IT IMPARTS TO NO SIGNIFICANCE I DO NOT WISH TO ATTACH BY NOT TELLING YOU, BUT THEY ARE CLASSIFIED AND I DON'T INTEND TO UNILATERALLY UNCLASSIFY THEM. I VERY MUCH HOPE THEY WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED BECAUSE I THINK THAT SERVES THE BETTER PURPOSE." HE SAYS HE FEELS THE INQUIRY NOW WOULD MORE PROPERLY BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH HAS MILITARY OVERSIGHT.

3. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MATERIAL HE SAID I MAY SAY BY THE WAY THAT I DON'T THINK IT'S APPROPRIATELY CLASSIFIED. I THINK 95 AND 9/10 PERCENT OF IT NOT NATIONAL SECURITY, IT MAY BE A MATTER OF EMBARRASSMENT BUT IT IS NOT SENSITIVE. AND I'M RECOMMENDING THAT IT ALL BE DECLASSIFIED SO THAT WE CAN SHUT THIS BUSINESS OF SAY I'VE GOT A SECRET YOU SHOULD

M.H. [unclear]

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 KNOW WHAT I KNOW, SO THE PEOPLE CAN MAKE A JUDGMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE
 IF ANY OF THIS INFORMATION. THERE'S A GREAT WEALTH OF INFORMATION,
 BUT I DO NOT FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO SAY THAT
 I'VE HIT PAYDIRT OR HAVE NOT. I SIMPLY WANT TO DISCLOSE IT TO THE
 COMMITTEE FIRST AND TO THE JURISDICTIONAL COMMITTEES AND HOPEFULLY
 THEN THE COUNTRY.

4. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD SEEN ANY OF THE "ANIMALS CRASHING
 AROUND IN THE FOREST" THE ONLY ONE HE SAID HE CAUGHT A "FLEETING
 GLIMPSE" OF WAS THE JCS SPYING ON KISSINGER.

5. WE ARE FOLLOWING UP ON THIS WITH OUR SUBCOMMITTEES IN THE
 HOPE THEY WILL INDEED TAKE THE BATON FROM BAKER NOW AND ULTIMATELY
 ISSUE THEIR OWN REPORT. ~~E2 IMPDET.~~
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