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January 8, 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. MAGRUDER

FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD

RE: J. Edgar Hoover's December 29th Letter to
The President Concerning Mort Halperin and
Clark Clifford

In response to your query, here are my initial thoughts on the matter:

- You should go -- first of all -- to Al Haig (not to Tony Lake) and find out who participated in Henry's December 29th meeting. If he had more than one group meeting on that day, you could say that it is your understanding that this particular meeting concerned Vietnam and options as to our future courses of action there.
- You should get ahold of the speeches or talks in which Mr. Nixon (the candidate) made the statements mentioned in the second paragraph ... in order to know and understand the context.
- The name of the game, of course, is to get ourselves springloaded to a position from which we can effectively counter whatever tack Clifford takes ... and it would appear that the memorandum you showed to me provides the basic framework for his plan.
- Al Haig can get you squared away on at least a preliminary scheme. We can build from there.
- Needless to say, this item is every bit as sensitive as the memorandum indicates.

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