SECRET

October 31, 1970

SANITIZED per 3.3(b)(1)

SUBJECT

Message for Chancellor Brandt

Attached is a personal and confidential message to Chanceller Brandt from the President. Please forward this message 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

The second secon

雅尔·河南

Attachment

DECLASSITIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN 03-39/12 per 3.3(b)(1); Ite S/26/10 m
y MLH NARA, Date 11/10/10

Epp. 1 of 3]

<del>SDORET</del>

SANITIZED COPY

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.

In your letter of October 14, which I very much appreciated, you again noted that the FRG-USSR treaty cannot come into force until there has been effective improvement in Berlin. In my conversation with Mr. Gromyko, I stressed the same point. He did not comment on that, though he did express appreciation for the positive view I had taken of that treaty. When the Foreign Minister raised the question of a European security conference, I also took that opportunity to stress the importance of progress in Berlin. You had made a similar point in your letter in relating the question of Soviet interest in genuine detente and the "test of Berlin."

In addition to considering topics such as Vietnam and the Middle East, we discussed at some length the general status of US-Soviet relations, and the fundamental importance of stable relations to the cause of world peace. However, I stressed to the Foreign Minister that the US cannot develop its relations with Moscow at the expense of our allies. Incidentally, in my recent meetings with President Ceausescu I also made the point that while we wanted to do nothing that would complicate his relations with the USSR, we would make no arrangements with the latter that were inimical to the interests of Romania or any other third country.

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

PERSONAL AND GONFIDENTIAL

NIN 03-39/12 [pp.3013