

January 28, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER

This is a memo of no consequence.

I sat next to Sir Dennis Greenhill at the State Department lunch yesterday for Wilson. Greenhill is Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office. At one point -- about our fourth course, second wine -- he asked if I was one of those in the White House involved with Biafran affairs. I said I was not, although like most of us I felt a sense of inadequacy and despair.

Not to worry, he replied. (In tone, if not in precisely those words.) The normal rate of "malnutrition" in Biafra is 5 percent. The present rate is only 10 percent, possibly 15 percent. I ran into him this morning in the basement, and got him to repeat the figures for the instruction of a somewhat astonished David Newsom.

I really did feel I was talking to Sir Charles Trevelyan 122 years ago, assuring me all was well in Connaught, that the new potato crop was coming along nicely, and that in any event the Irish always were a bit disorganized.

Daniel P. Moynihan

DPM/crm

bcc: Harry Blaney