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TO

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR.

TO COMEX FROM HELMS

REF: DIRECTOR []

1. THIS ACKNOWLEDGES REFERENCE. PLEASE SHARE WHAT FOLLOWS WITH SENATOR SYMINGTON AND CONGRESSMAN NEDZI ACCORDING TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL DESIRES.

2. MY MEMORANDUM TO GENERAL WALTERS OF 28 JUNE 1972 WAS WRITTEN IN THE CONTEXT OF AN UPCOMING TRIP WHICH TOOK ME TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FROM 1 TO 12 JULY 1972. I WAS MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT GENERAL WALTERS HAD ONLY BEEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR SINCE 2 MAY 1972 AND THAT ACTING DIRECTOR GRAY OF THE FBI HAD BEEN IN HIS JOB AN EVEN SHORTER TIME. I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY GRAY COULD NOT FIND TIME TO SEE ME ON 28 JUNE OR DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS. I WANTED GEN. WALTERS TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH THE FBI SO THAT ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN COULD GO FORWARD, BUT I DID NOT WANT HIM TO PERMIT SOME KIND OF A FISHING EXPEDITION INTO CIA OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES INCLUDING MEXICO. THERE HAD BEEN QUERIES ABOUT OGARRIA AND DAHLBERG FROM

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: MAR 2008

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TO

THE FBI WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION BEING GIVEN AS TO WHAT THESE INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED. SINCE I COULD NOT ESTABLISH THE FBI MOTIVE AND SINCE GRAY KEPT QUERYING ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATERGATE BURGLARY DESPITE MY DENIALS, I WANTED TO INSURE THAT THE DELIMITATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES WAS SCRUPULOUSLY FOLLOWED. FURTHER, I COULD SEE FROM PRESS ~~MEMO~~ STORIES AND OTHER EVENTS (SUCH AS DEAN'S MEETINGS WITH WALTERS ON 26, 27, AND 28 JUNE) THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO IMPLICATE THE AGENCY. MY SOLE PREOCCUPATION WAS TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING SINCE THE AGENCY WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN, THE ONLY ILLEGALITY WHICH ~~WAS~~ AS FAR AS I KNEW AT THE TIME WAS AT ISSUE. THE LAST SENTENCE OF MY 28 JUNE ~~1972~~ 1972 MEMO, ALTHOUGH THE PRECISE LANGUAGE OF IT MAY SOUND OMINOUS IN LIGHT OF LATER FINDINGS AND TESTIMONY, WAS SIMPLY AN EFFORT TO SEE TO IT THAT THE INVESTIGATION WENT FORWARD WHILE I WAS ABSENT FROM THE COUNTRY. IT WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE GEN. WALTERS GUIDANCE SINCE HE WAS SO NEW IN THE AGENCY TO THE EFFECT THAT I DID NOT WANT THE FBI'S HEADQUARTERS OR MEXICO CITY STATION TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS INVESTIGATION TO HURT UNRELATED AGENCY OPERATIONS IN MEXICO OR

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ELSEWHERE WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE. I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT THE FBI WAS ATTEMPTING TO GET INTO ~~SECRET~~ AS OF 28 JUNE 1972.

3. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT GEN. WALTERS CONTENDS THAT HE NEVER SAW MY MEMORANDUM OF 28 JUNE 1972. I DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY THIS HAPPENED, AND I WAS NOT AWARE THAT THIS WAS THE CASE UNTIL SOME TIME THIS YEAR. SINCE IT WAS AN "EYES ONLY" MEMORANDUM, IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN SEEN BY ~~ANY~~ ANY OTHER OFFICER OF THE AGENCY. I CERTAINLY INTENDED GEN. WALTERS TO SEE THE MEMORANDUM, BUT IF HE DID NOT, IT COULD NOT HAVE AFFECTED HIS ATTITUDE IN THE 6 JULY MEETING OR ANY OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH MR. GRAY. THIS IS NOT A MAKE WEIGHT ARGUMENT. IT IS TO CLARIFY THE RECORD.

4. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE ON THE RECORD BY GRAY AND WALTERS THAT MY ACTIONS AND THOSE OF WALTERS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 28 JUNE 1972 COMPLETELY REFUTE THE INTERPRETATION ~~THAT~~ THAT THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF MY MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES AN ORDER TO WALTERS TO STONEWALL THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION. THIS EVIDENCE INCLUDES: (1) GRAY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON 24 MAY 1973, LINE 6, PAGE 126 THROUGH LINE 9, PAGE

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127: "NOW, DIRECTOR HELMS SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO MR. GRAY ON THE PREVIOUS DAY AND HAD MADE PLAIN TO HIM THAT THE AGENCY WAS NOT BEHIND THIS MATTER, THAT IT WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH IT, AND NONE OF THE SUSPECTS WERE WORKING FOR IT NOR HAD WORKED FOR THE AGENCY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. HE HAD TOLD GRAY THAT NONE OF HIS INVESTIGATION WAS TOUCHING ANY COVERT PROJECTS OF THE AGENCY, CURRENT OR ONGOING." "NOW, TO GET US PROPERLY ORIENTED HERE, I FIRST HAVE TO ASK YOU, DID HELMS MAKE THAT STATEMENT TO YOU THE DAY BEFORE?" MR. GRAY: "I THINK I PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT I CALLED MR. HELMS THE DAY BEFORE, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1972 AT 5:23 PM. THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL WAS TO TELL HIM, FOLLOWING MY BRIEFING FROM MR. BATES, THAT WE THOUGHT WE MAY BE POKING INTO A CIA OPERATION AND I WANTED TO VERIFY IT OR DENY IT WITH HIM. HE SAID TO ME, AND I HAVE A NOTE ON THAT, 'WE HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH SOME OF OUR PEOPLE HERE AND ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED, THE CIA IS NOT INVOLVED.' HERE IS THE WAY I WROTE IT DOWN EXACTLY ON MY TELEPHONE NOTE: 'TO TELL HIM OF OUR THOUGHT THAT WE MAY BE POKING INTO A CIA OPERATION AND TO VERIFY OR DENY, AND HE SAID HE HAD BEEN MEETING

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TO

ON THIS VERY DAY WITH HIM MEN, THEY KNEW THE PEOPLE, THEY CAN'T
FIGURE OUT THIS ONE. THERE IS NO CIA INVOLVEMENT."

~~SECRET~~ CHAIRMAN MCCLELLAN: THERE MAY BE A LITTLE VARIATION FROM
WHAT HE SAID. "HE TOLD GRAY" --THAT IS HELMS-- "TOLD GRAY THAT
NONE OF HIS INVESTIGATIONS WAS TOUCHING COVERT PROJECTS OF THE
AGENCY, CURRENT OR ONGOING." MR. GRAY: I THINK THAT COMPORTS
IN GENERAL WITH THE NOTES THAT I HAVE ON IT. (2) YOU WILL
ALSO RECALL THAT GRAY RESCHEDULED THE ~~MEETING~~ CANCELLED 28 JUNE
MEETING FOR 6 JULY WITH WALTERS, AND WALTERS' MEMORANDUM OF THE
SAME DATE STATES THAT HE TOLD GRAY, "IN ALL HONESTY, I COULD NOT
TELL HIM (GRAY) TO CEASE FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ON THE GROUNDS
THAT IT WOULD COMPROMISE THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED
STATES." AT THAT MEETING, WALTERS ALSO GAVE GRAY A MEMORANDUM
SUMMARIZING ALL THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAD REPORTED TO THE ~~F~~
FBI ON THE MATTER WHICH, OF COURSE, IS FURTHER PROOF THAT THERE
WAS NO AGENCY INVOLVEMENT."

5. AS FOR MY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FBI AS OF 28 JUNE 1972,
I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ~~ONE~~ POINT HERE, THERE HAD BEEN LEAKS
FROM THE ALEXANDRIA FIELD OFFICE OF THE FBI WHICH HAD BEEN CON-

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CITE

TO

DUCTING THE INITIAL INTERVIEWS. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT I DID NOT WANT WAGNER AND [redacted] INTERVIEWED BY THAT OFFICE. ALTHOUGH I WAS QUITE PREPARED, AND BELIEVE I MADE IT CLEAR TO GRAY, THAT IF THEIR TESTIMONY WAS ACTUALLY NEEDED, SOMEONE FROM GRAY'S OWN OFFICE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THEM AT ANY TIME. ALSO, AS EARLY AS 22 JUNE 1972 [redacted] OF THE AGENCY SECURITY STAFF CHECKED WITH THE FBI ON THE PROGRESS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION OF MCCORD AND WAS STONEWALLED WITH THE ADVICE FROM THE FBI THAT WORD HAD COME DOWN FROM GRAY THAT THE FBI WAS NOT TO DISSEMINATE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE IN ORAL ~~OR~~ OR WRITTEN FORM. THE ACCUMULATION OF SUCH FACTS MADE ^{ME} ~~ME~~ WARY OF WHAT THE FBI MIGHT BE DOING TO IMPLICATE THE AGENCY AND STRONGLY INFLUENCED MY EFFORTS TO TRY TO KEEP THE AGENCY FROM BECOMING ENSNARED.

6. LAURENCE STERN OF THE WASHINGTON POST HAS IN EFFECT ACCUSED ME OF PERJURY ON TWO OCCASIONS BEFORE HIS ~~NUMBER~~ NOVEMBER 2 ARTICLE. IN MAY 1973 PRIOR TO MY APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN OPEN SESSION (MAY 21), HE WROTE A STORY INDICATING THAT I HAD PERJURED MYSELF IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION APPEARANCES BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH MY

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TO

CONFIRMATION (FEBRUARY 7). THEN HE WROTE ANOTHER ARTICLE ON 10 JULY ACCUSING ME AGAIN. THIS ARTICLE WAS THE SUBJECT OF A LETTER FROM MR. COLBY TO CHAIRMAN SYMINGTON OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 10 JULY. WHAT MR. COLBY WRITES IN SAID LETTER IS ACCURATE.

7. I HAVE NO RELUCTANCE TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE OR BEFORE THE STAFF OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR. I FIND MYSELF, HOWEVER, BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE ON MY ~~RECENT~~ COMMITMENTS HERE. I OPEN A US TRADE CENTER ON SUNDAY EVENING AND AM INVOLVED IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT IN TEHRAN ON NOVEMBER 9. ALSO I AM SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL IN SOUTHERN IRAN FROM NOVEMBER 5 TO NOVEMBER 8 TO VISIT IRANIAN OIL INSTALLATIONS. THIS TRIP COULD BE CANCELLED, BUT I DO NOT QUITE SEE HOW I COULD GET TO WASHINGTON AND RETURN BY NOVEMBER 9 AND STILL DO JUSTICE TO WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF ME. I CITE THESE COMMITMENTS, AND OTHERS IN THE WEEK RIGHT AFTER 9 NOVEMBER, ONLY TO SET FORTH FOR MY FRIENDS WHAT MY PROBLEM IS.

8. UNTIL NOW IN THIS MESSAGE I HAVE NOT ADDRESSED THE

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CITE

TO

QUESTION OF RELEASING PUBLICLY THE TEXT OF THE 28 JUNE 1972 MEMORANDUM. AFTER WHAT HAS ALREADY APPEARED IN THE BALTIMORE NEWS AMERICAN AND THE WASHINGTON POST OF 2 NOVEMBER, I DO NOT RPT NOT SUPPOSE THAT THE RELEASE OF THE FULL TEXT COULD DO ANY MORE DAMAGE THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE. MR. COX'S GRATUITOUS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE STRUCK ME AS ~~BEING~~ COMING RATHER POORLY FROM A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR WHO HAD HAD THE 28 JUNE 1972 MEMORANDUM IN HIS POSSESSION FROM THE DAY HE TOOK OVER. I WAS INTERVIEWED BY TWO ELEMENTS OF HIS STAFF ON 31 JULY 1973. I HAVE NEVER MET MR. COX, BUT HE APPEARS TO HAVE GONE RATHER FAR AFIELD TO ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE ME. THE LEAK OF THE QUOTATION FROM THE 28 JUNE 1972 LETTER ~~A~~ IN THE NEWSPAPER STORIES MUST HAVE COME FROM HIS STAFF. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT COX MADE HIS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ME DESPITE MR. COLBY'S TESTIMONY AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN JULY 1973 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THIS POSITION (TAKEN IN THE 28 JUNE 1972 MEMORANDUM) WAS CONSISTENT WITH OUR CONCERN THAT INVESTIGATIONS MIGHT REVEAL CIA ACTIVITIES AND OUR BELIEF THAT THEY WERE UNNECESSARY SINCE

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CIA HAD NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATERGATE INCIDENT . . . OUR CHECK INDICATED THAT THE LEADS IN MEXICO DID NOT INVOLVE ANY CURRENT CIA ASSETS OR ACTIVITIES. HAVING SATISFIED OURSELVES THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATERGATE INCIDENT, WE WERE CONCERNED THAT A POSSIBLE BROADENING OF THE INVESTIGATION WHICH WOULD ~~REVEAL~~ REVEAL CIA FOREIGN ACTIVITIES HAVING NO BEARING ON THE WATERGATE INCIDENT WOULD TAKE PLACE."

9. PLEASE ADVISE ME WHETHER THE USE OF THE FOREGOING RESPONSES WILL HELP TO QUIET DOWN THE ~~RECENT~~ CURRENT CONTROVERSY. I AM CLEARLY OPEN TO THE ADVICE OF FRIENDS AS TO WHAT FURTHER I SHOULD DO IF ANYTHING ~~SEEMS~~ SEEMS REQUIRED. E2, IMPDET.

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Form 2220
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