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CITE DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

TO: TEHRAN.

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FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS

1. ON 19 NOVEMBER SENATOR SYMINGTON BROUGHT UP TWO ARTICLES IN RECENT ISSUES (14 SEPTEMBER AND 26 OCTOBER) OF NATIONAL REVIEW BY MILES COPELAND. IN 14 SEPTEMBER ARTICLE COPELAND CLAIMS TALKS WITH PEOPLE AT LANGLEY HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT "WITH OR WITHOUT EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM SOMEONE IN THE AGENCY, MCCORD TOOK HUNT AND LIDDY INTO A TRAP. AFTER ALL, THE CIA SPECIALISTS IN OPERATIONS OF THE PLUMBERS' KIND HAD A LOT TO GAIN FROM PUTTING THE WHITE HOUSE'S CLOWNS OUT OF BUSINESS. THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES WERE A HIGH PRICE TO PAY, BUT, AFTER ALL, IT WASN'T THE AGENCY THAT HAD TO PAY IT."

2. ON PROCEEDING FROM SENATOR BAKER, SYMINGTON ON 19 NOVEMBER HAD BRASWELL CALL COPELAND IN LONDON TO ASK HE RETURN TO TESTIFY ON MATTER. IN THAT CONVERSATION, COPELAND CLAIMED THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BAKER AND TOLD HIM IN CONFIDENCE THAT JOHN WARNER WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH INFORMATION ON WHICH COPELAND'S ALLEGA-

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

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TIONS WERE BASED. COPELAND SAID HE WILLING WRITE LETTER IN PLACE OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE IN WHICH HE WOULD CONCEDE HIS SPECULATION WAS BASED ON UNINFORMED GOSSIP AND HE HAD NO EVIDENCE. BUT HE FLATLY REFUSED RETURN WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME AND SAID HE WOULD ALSO REFUSE HONOR SUBPOENA EVEN IF SERVED.

3. PER 19 NOVEMBER CABLE RECEIVED FROM CORD MEYER, COPELAND CALLED FOR URGENT MEET WITH MEYER THAT DAY AT WHICH HE SAID BAKER HAD PHONED HIM ON 16 AND 18 NOVEMBER EXPRESSING INTEREST IN ABOVE-QUOTED PASSAGE FROM 14 SEPTEMBER ARTICLE. COPELAND MAINTAINED TO MEYER HE HEARD GOSSIP WHEN LAST IN WASHINGTON FROM PAST AND PRESENT AGENCY STAFFERS BUT INSISTED DID NOT WISH TESTIFY OR CAUSE TROUBLE. MEYER SUGGESTED COPELAND ADMIT TO BAKER HIS SPECULATION BASED ON UNINFORMED GOSSIP, NOT EVIDENCE. COPELAND INDICATED WOULD WRITE SUCH A LETTER TO BAKER BUT HE NOT ANXIOUS TESTIFY BEFORE COMMITTEE.

4. 20 NOVEMBER MEYER CABLED HAD JUST RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM COPELAND WHO SAID HAD NO INTENTION RETURN WASHINGTON, BRASWELL HAD NO POWER SUBPOENA HIM IN UNITED KINGDOM, BUT HE WOULD WRITE LETTER TO BAKER ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED.

5. ONLY TIME WARNER HAS SEEN COPELAND SINCE HE LEFT AGENCY

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WAS AT HEADQUARTERS MEETING ATTENDED BY BOTH WARNER AND THURMER AT WHICH MATTER OF COPELAND'S FORTHCOMING BOOK WAS MENTIONED AND WARNER ASKED COPELAND TO SUBMIT MANUSCRIPT FOR REVIEW.

6. RE YOUR UPCOMING VISIT, BELIEVE YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL HAVE CHAT WITH SYMINGTON AND WOOLSEY OVER WEEKEND. BOTH EXPECT BE AVAILABLE SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER AND SYMINGTON WOULD BE GLAD HAVE YOU CALL HIM AT HIS WATERGATE (1) APARTMENT, PREFERABLY AROUND 0830 OR 0900 HOURS, FEDERAL S-2984. (FYI HE EXPECTS BE IN HOSPITAL FOR TWO WEEKS BEGINNING THE 25TH). WOOLSEY MCLEAN HOME PHONE IS 538-5270.

7. IN ABSENCE OF NEDEI HAVI, AS COURTESY, INFORMED SIATINSBEK OF YOUR UPCOMING VISIT. HE RECOMMENDS THAT IF POSSIBLE YOU PAY BRIEF CALL ON NEDEI BEFORE YOUR RETURN TEHRAN. BELIEVE THIS GOOD IDEA IF YOU CAN WORK IT IN, SINCE WE NEED ALL HELP WE CAN GET IN PREVENTING RENEWED WATERGATE AGITATION IN HOUSE SIMILAR TO THAT NOW CURRENT IN SENATE. ~~SECRET~~

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