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Executive Registry

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September 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

THROUGH: Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

1. At our last meeting it was suggested that I go by to see Jack Kemp regarding his concerns about the BACKFIRE. I had a brief visit with him today. We did not go into the details of the BACKFIRE study, though I offered to sit down with him and discuss it more fully if he so desired. We did discuss the attack on the integrity of the Secretary of State, the DCI and CIA that resulted from the outrageous Aviation Week story and the previous columns by George Will and Evans and Novak.

2. Kemp accepted the fact that integrity was not an issue and that he would defend us on this. He had been briefed, apparently by the Aviation Week editor and others, who had convinced him that the CIA study was inaccurate. I will follow up on this.

3. Another point: I met yesterday with the President of MacAir, Mr. George Graff. He assured me that MacAir analysts felt that we had not withheld or slanted data on the BACKFIRE study. We are engaged in a battle here against people who clearly are trying to discredit the CIA study. I am considering at some point asking one of our oversight committees to look into these allegations. I am confident such a review would exonerate the analytical process at CIA and certainly would lay to rest these slanderous attacks that are being laid on Secretary Kissinger and indirectly against me. I will consult with Brent before taking any such move.

Respectfully yours,



George Bush
Director

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