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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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EZ2:

TEXT  
SR3

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DR. KISSINGER  
E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: MAYOR S "EXPLANATIONS" RE HIS COMMENTS ON DR.  
KISSINGER S VISIT  
REFS: VANCOUVER 208 VANCOUVER 214  
1. MAYOR HARCOURT HAS SENT ME A COPY OF A LETTER HE WROTE TO  
THE EDITORS OF THE VANCOUVER SUN, THE PROVINCE AND THE JEWISH  
WESTERN BULLETIN. IN HIS LETTER TO ME HE SAID: "I TRUST THIS  
EXPLAINS WHAT HAS BECOME AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION FOR  
VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT AT OUR MOST  
RECENT COUNCIL MEETING, WE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A MOTION THAT  
LIMITS COUNCIL S DEBATE TO ISSUES THAT DIRECTLY CONCERN US,  
LEAVING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES TO OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.  
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD FORWARD THE ENCLOSED  
LETTER TO DR. KISSINGER."  
2. THE TEXT OF THE MAYOR S LETTER TO EDITORS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN TEXT  
QUOTE  
"VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL S DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE  
QUEST SPEAKER, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, FOR THE ARTS,

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE'S FEBRUARY 22ND FUND RAISING DINNER HAS STIMULATED A GREAT DEAL OF MEDIA AND CITIZEN COMMENT. WHILE THIS GENERAL INTEREST MAY HAVE HELPED TICKET SALES, IT IS RATHER UNFORTUNATE THAT MUCH OF THE CRITICISMS DIRECTED AT COUNCIL AND MYSELF ARE BASED ON INACCURATE INTERPRETATION OF WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED. CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW CERTAIN FACTS.

AS MAYOR, I AM A PATRON AND SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WHICH I GENUINELY BELIEVE TO BE AN EXCELLENT CONCEPT. I ALSO HOPE TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CENTRE'S OPERATIONS IN 1986, UNTIL THE DREAM FOR A PERMANENT LEGACY IN B.C. PLACE FROM EXPO 86 CAN BE REALIZED.

BECAUSE I AM A PATRON OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, IT WAS LOGICAL FOR ME TO AGREE TO BE A PATRON OF THEIR WORLD AFFAIRS DINNER, ALTHOUGH THE CHOICE OF DR. KISSINGER AS MAIN SPEAKER, I PERSONALLY QUESTIONED DUE TO THE CONTROVERSY OVER HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH CAMBODIA, CHILE, CENTRAL AMERICA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME, I DO APPRECIATE THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS AWARDED A NOBEL PRIZE FOR HIS ROLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN DETENTE AND IN THE OPENING OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THERE ARE, NEVERTHELESS, MORE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE TO INVITE TO AN APOLITICAL, NON-PROFIT FUND RAISING EVENT.

WHILE THE REQUEST BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT SEEMED OUTSIDE CITY BUSINESS, THEY WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK. AFTER ALL, THE MAYOR DID APPEAR AS PATRON ON THE LETTER OF INVITATION CIRCULATED BY THE ARTS, SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE. THE CITIZENS SAW THIS INVOLVEMENT OF MAYOR AND HENCE, THE CITY, AS REPUGNANT.

MY SUGGESTION THAT COUNCIL SIMPLY RECEIVE THE DELEGATION'S SUBMISSION WAS NOT ACCEPTED. INSTEAD, ALDERMAN RANKIN'S MOTION THAT THE WORLD AFFAIRS DINNER SPONSORS ALSO INVITE "AN OFFICIAL OF THE NICARAGUA GOVERNMENT TO VANCOUVER TO SPEAK ON THE SAME TERMS AS DR. KISSINGER" WAS APPROVED BY A 7-4 MAJORITY OF COUNCIL.

COUNCIL'S DECISION WAS NOT TO CURTAIL FREE SPEECH NOR TO LIMIT THE RIGHT OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AND THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF VANCOUVER TO INVITE THE SPEAKER OF THEIR CHOICE. RATHER, IT WAS A DECISION WHICH FAVOURED THE AIRING OF DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW - A VOTE FOR A BALANCED POINT OF VIEW.

WITH REFERENCE TO MY OWN REMARKS DURING COUNCIL DEBATE, AT NO TIME DID I INTEND TO INSULT DR. KISSINGER PERSONALLY, NOR TO PREVENT HIM FROM COMING. I DO, HOWEVER, HOLD DIFFERENT POLITICAL VIEWS. FURTHERMORE, THE REFERENCE I MADE TO **KLAUS BARBIE**, THE BUTCHER OF LYON, WAS AS AN EXAMPLE OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR ANY ORGANIZATION TO INVITE AS GUEST SPEAKER. I DID NOT COMPARE BARBIE WITH KISSINGER.

YOU WILL, NO DOUBT, APPRECIATE THAT I DEEPLY REGRET THAT MY REMARKS HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS A PERSONAL

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INSULT TO DR. KISSINGER OR THAT COUNCIL S INTENT WAS TO  
LIMIT FREE SPEECH OR INTERFERE IN THE RIGHTS OF CITI-  
ZENS ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR CITY TO INVITE THE SPEAKER  
OF THEIR CHOICE."

END TEXT

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