

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

DOS Review
Completed.

NSC review
completed.

MORI C05141113

ACTION

SECRET/EYES ONLY

January 14, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL HAIG

FROM:

JOHN D. NEGROPONTE

SUBJECT:

Porter's Back-Channel on the 1968
"Understandings"

You have already read Porter's back-channel at Tab B.

In view of what else is cooking, I think Sulzberger's story on the 1968 understandings would be obscured by much more newsworthy aspects of the negotiating history. For the time being, therefore, we should let sleeping dogs lie.

I have prepared a back-channel reply at Tab A for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize the message at Tab A for transmission to Ambassador Porter.

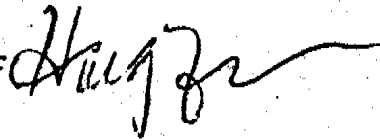
SECRET/EYES ONLY

SECRET/EYES ONLY

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TO: Ambassador Porter

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger



REFERENCE: Your 526

1. Thanks for your message about Sulzberger's interest which is, of course, appreciated here.
2. We do not believe that this is a good time to review the 1968 negotiating record and, therefore, if possible, would prefer that you ask Sulzberger to hold off on his story for a little while.
3. Best regards.

SECRET/EYES ONLY

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EYES ONLY

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FM PARIS

TO WHITE HOUSE

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FM AMBASSADOR PORTER PARIS 526

TO THE WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR DR. HENRY KISSINGER

1. CY SULZBERGER, NEW YORK TIMES, SAYS HE WISHES TO WRITE HELPFUL ARTICLE ON UNDERSTANDINGS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE ABOUT UNARMED RECONNAISSANCE PLANES, DMZ, AND SHELLING OF CITIES. IT THERE IS MATERIAL OR COMMENT YOU WOULD LIKE USED IN THAT CONNECTION, PERHAPS YOUR STAFF COULD SEND TO ME. ALSO, LET ME KNOW IF I SHOULD TURN HIM OFF PROJECT.

2. NVN/VC REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON PROBLEM OF PRISONER/TROOP WITHDRAWALS IS VERY SHRILL AND CONSISTS OF GENERAL DENUNCIATIONS. I EXPECT REVIEW RECORD FOR THEM ON THURSDAY AND ALSO TAKE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR FOW LETTER AND PACKAGE PROBLEMS. VARIOUS SOURCES TELL ME NVN/VC DEL IS IN VERY SHATTERED STATE OF MIND.

3. REGARDS. HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER.

PORTER

#547

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

NNNN

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY