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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T SENSITIVE

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TOMAK 87

MAY 6, 1974

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

I HAVE TALKED TO DONALDSON AGAIN. HE HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE. HE WILL GO REASONABLY HAPPY, AND WILL PROBABLY KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT, IF WE CAN KEEP THE LEVEL OF SPECULATION OUT OF THIS BUILDING DOWN AS WELL. AS OF NOW HE TELLS ME THAT HE WILL RESTRICT HIMSELF IN COMMENTING TO THE PRESS TO A STATEMENT THAT HE IS LEAVING FOR PERSONAL REASONS, WITH NO EMBELLISHMENTS. I CANNOT, HOWEVER, GUARANTEE THAT THAT LINE WILL HOLD IF TOO MANY NASTY STORIES COME OUT OF WASHINGTON. THUS, I WILL TAKE STEPS TO SHUT THE BUILDING UP AS BEST I CAN.

MORI/CDF  
C03344800

BILL AND I HAVE WORKED OUT A DRAFT STATEMENT WHICH BILL WOULD LIKE THE PRESS SPOKESMAN TO ISSUE AT NOON WASHINGTON TIME ON MAY 8. THE PROPOSED TEXT FOLLOWS:

State Dept. review  
completed

BEGIN TEXT

SECRETARY KISSINGER ANNOUNCES WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF MR. WILLIAM DONALDSON, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE. MR. DONALDSON, WHO IS RESIGNING FOR PERSONAL REASONS, WILL LEAVE OFFICE ON FRIDAY, MAY 10.

THE SECRETARY HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO MR. DONALDSON FROM THE MIDDLE EAST:

"DEAR BILL:

I VERY MUCH REGRET YOUR DECISION TO LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE. WHILE I AM DEEPLY SORRY TO SEE YOU GO, I UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR YOUR DECISION.

AS YOU LEAVE YOU TAKE WITH YOU MY THANKS FOR THE FINE WORK YOU HAVE DONE, MY GRATITUDE OR THE PERSONAL SACRIFICES YOU HAVE MADE, AND MY BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE."

I RECOMMEND YOU APPROVE THIS STATEMENT AND BILL'S PROPOSED TIMING FOR DEPARTURE. IT WOULD BE BEST IF HE WOULD BE GONE BY THE TIME YOU RETURN.

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\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

SECFL

PSN:032775

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY