

SENSITIVE

PAGE 79

SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 06/20/74//171

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK II

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 93//

TO JANKA FOR ZIEGLER - JIDDA
ROOMAN FOR SCOWCOFT - JIDDA

UNCLAS WH4190B

TOHAK 93

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JUNE 14, 1974

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

MY REQUEST OF MAY 28TH TO RESIGN NOT HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED,
I NOW FEEL COMPELLED UNILATERALLY TO TERMINATE MY APPOINTMENT
EFFECTIVE TODAY.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,
(S) PAUL H. NITZE

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

STATEMENT BY PAUL H. NITZE

IT WAS ALMOST TWENTY-NINE YEARS AGO TODAY THAT I SUPERVISED THE
ON-SITE INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ATOMIC WEAPONS DROPPED ON
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. SINCE THAT TIME MUCH OF MY THOUGHT AND
ENDEAVOR HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO THE TWIN GOALS OF PRESERVING THE
GENERAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES WHILE LOWERING THE RISKS OF
NUCLEAR WAR.

FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS I HAVE DEVOTED ALL MY ENERGIES TO SUP-
PORTING THE OBJECTIVE OF NEGOTIATING SALT AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD
BE BALANCED AND WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED
STATES, AND ALSO OF THE SOVIET UNION, BY MAINTAINING CRISIS STABILITY
AND PROVIDING A BASIS FOR LESSENING THE STRATEGIC ARMS COMPETITION
BETWEEN THEM. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING AT THE PRESENT TIME,

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

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HOWEVER, I SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF NEGOTIATING MEASURES WHICH WILL ENHANCE MOVEMENT TOWARD THOSE OBJECTIVES.

ARMS CONTROL POLICY IS INTEGRAL TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY OF THIS NATION AND THEY, IN TURN, ARE CLOSELY INTER-TWINED WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IN MY VIEW, IT WOULD BE ILLUSORY TO ATTEMPT TO IGNORE OR WISH AWAY THE DEPRESSING REALITY OF THE TRAUMATIC EVENTS NOW UNFOLDING IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL AND OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THOSE EVENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.

UNTIL THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY HAS BEEN RESTORED TO ITS PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION AND TAKING CARE OF THE FAIR EXECUTION THE LAWS, AND THUS BE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AT HOME AND ABROAD, I SEE NO REAL PROSPECT FOR REVERSING CERTAIN UNFORTUNATE TRENDS IN THE EVOLVING SITUATION. TIME IS NOW OF THE ESSENCE IN ESTABLISHING THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR SUCH A REGENERATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE ORDERLY PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT CONTINUE. IT IS THE GENIUS OF THE UNITED STATES FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO COMPENSATE FOR INDIVIDUAL DEFICIENCIES. ALL THOSE WHO ARE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN THE ORDERLY PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT DESPITE THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THEIR LOYALTY TO HIGHER AUTHORITY AND THEIR LOYALTY TO THEIR OATH OF OFFICE HAVE MY FULL SYMPATHY AND ADMIRATION. I REGRET THAT THAT TENSION HAS NOW BECOME TOO GREAT FOR ME TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE WITH THEM. AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN I SHALL SUPPORT THEM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

BT

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