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Sent: 2:35

25X1

SIT TO 52

July 7, 1971

FOR: KISSINGER (THRU WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM)

FROM: HAIG

ON FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

MORI C05147532

Leader agrees completely with your analysis concerning better psychological circumstance resulting from messenger's response. On the other hand, does not appear to share view concerning Congressional and domestic situation but prefers to view response in context of messenger's overall assessment that additional squeezing will accomplish more than enterprise in question. I made point strongly that we must play cool deliberate game to insure proper outcome and to avoid succumbing to pique. Leader agreed but phenomenon can be expected to persist.

Concerning other visit, leader recognizes initiative not completely in our hands but prefers following scenario for domestic reasons and because he believes a "sooner rather than later" approach will have greatest psychological impact on messenger:

1. September first preference.
2. November or December second preference, with no intermediate in either of first two.
3. Third preference would be adopted only if final act not

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feasible this year, under this course, essential that we have intermediate as planned earlier, with final round, hopefully, in the spring.

Re Kirschman channel, leader understands problem but as you are aware harbors residual skepticism on overall value of exercise.

Concerning visit on subject in which Helms was involved, we had a lengthy and at times starchy discussion enroute. Proponent was adamant and Helms most helpful in terms of futility of exercise based on his recent visit. Nevertheless, proponent remained adamant and it was necessary for me to pose hard questions. My stand was obviously resented strongly by proponent especially since decision was not made at the meeting. Nevertheless, and despite best efforts, I am confident that proponent's activities are proceeding apace without our knowledge and may soon bring us to point of no return. Note HAK TO-32 forwarded to you separately. I had call this morning from agent of prospective host and he stated that he will be able to delay at least until week of nineteenth in giving go-ahead. He plans to give such a response on Friday, July 9. He added, however, that it would be impossible to reject outright and hopes that we will be able manage the problem at our end. As you might have expected, proponent has made the rosier of predictions with respect to the other party involved and his good will. I expect today or tomorrow this will be further reenforced by reports from the field emanating from

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the exercise which was launched without our clearance. I wanted you to be fully abreast of the difficulties we are facing on this proposition and to be aware that I lost considerable virginity in yesterday's meeting in an effort to prevent precipitous action.

We hope that you did not run into too much flak at most recent stop. Overall portrayal of your trip thus far has been superb and leader noted this morning that it is being conducted with the greatest skill and sensitivity. I will send message later today with respect to venue problem on which I will bite bullet this morning.

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