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CITE DIRECTOR []

TO: TEHRAN.

~~EYES ONLY~~ AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM MAURY

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1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH WOOLSEY AND ME AFTERNOON 15 NOVEMBER PREPARATORY TO 16 NOVEMBER COMMITTEE HEARING ON ST. GEORGE ALLEGATIONS, SYMINGTON MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HELMS AND THE AGENCY ARE TARGETS OF ATTACK FROM THREE DIRECTIONS: FIRST, THE LEFTIST RADICALS AND AGITATORS WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST THE AGENCY AND ANYONE CONNECTED WITH IT. SECOND, THE WHITE HOUSE CROWD INVOLVED IN WATERGATE WHO RESENT THE AGENCY'S LACK OF COOPERATION IN THE COVERUP AND WOULD LIKE TO USE THE AGENCY AS A SCAPEGOAT OR RED HERRING. IN THIS CONNECTION SYMINGTON HAS BEEN TOLD BY A RESPONSIBLE REPUBLICAN SENATOR THAT HALDEMAN AND EHRLICHMAN FIGURE ONE OF THEIR BEST PLOYS TO KEEP OUT OF JAIL IS TO HANG A SHARE OF THE BLAME ON HELMS. THIRD, THE "KENNEDY FACTION" OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S STAFF. SYMINGTON RECALLS A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH COX ABOUT THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE WATERGATE SHORTLY BEFORE COX WAS

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FIRED DURING WHICH COX AT NO TIME MADE ANY MENTION OF A Y CONCERN THAT AN "IMPORTANT WITNESS" HAD MISLED THE COMMITTEE OR THAT HE WAS DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR TESTIMONY IN ANY WAY.

B. HELMS AND THE AGENCY ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, AND HELMS SHOULD BE STRONGLY ADVISED TO CONSULT HIS OWN LAWYER IMMEDIATELY--A FIRST-CLASS LAWYER LIKE CLARK CLIFFORD. THE AGENCY SHOULD GET SOME SMART FELLOW WORKING RIGHT AWAY ON THE QUESTION OF JUST HOW HALDEMAN AND COMPANY CAN BEAT THE RAP BY PINNING BLAME ON HELMS AND THE AGENCY.

C. SYMINGTON DOESN'T BLAME HELMS FOR BEING "SORE AS HELL" AT WHAT IS GOING ON BUT SAYS HE HAS GOT TO KEEP HIS COOL AND ESPECIALLY HAS GOT TO GET THE ADVICE OF A TOP FLIGHT LAWYER.

2. YOU DOUBTLESS WELL AWARE SYMINGTON INCREASINGLY ERRATIC IN RECENT YEARS AND MORE AND MORE TENDS TO SHOOT FROM THE HIP. HOWEVER, HIS ANALYSIS OF PROBLEM IS FAIRLY CONSISTENT WITH RECENT PATTERN OF EVENTS. IF INDEED HALDEMAN ET AL ARE ENGAGED IN MAJOR EFFORT TO SHAFT YOU AND THE AGENCY ONLY MOTIVE THAT READILY APPEARS IS THAT OF CREATING DIVERSIONARY SMOKE SCREEN OR FALSE TRAIL BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE INSIGHTS THAT GO DEEPER. AS GREANY POINTS OUT, IF

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HALDEMAN OR OTHER WATERGATE DEFENDENTS ARE LAYING STRATEGY FOR DEFENSE IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION THEY DOUBTLESS RECKON THAT BY CONVINCING ONLY ONE JUROR THAT THERE IS REASONABLE DOUBT AS TO THE ESSENTIAL FACTS THEY CAN HANG THE JURY.

3. SO FAR AS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR-STAFF IS CONCERNED, SOME JUNIOR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN HEARD TO REFER DISPARAGINGLY TO THE AGENCY AND CERTAINLY KENNEDY HIMSELF, AND THE WITNESSES THAT HE APPARENTLY SPONSORED, TRIED TO GIVE US A HARD TIME DURING COLBY CONFIRMATION HEARING. HAVE NO CLUE TO DATE ON ATTITUDE JAWORSKI.

4. HAVE DISCUSSED SUGGESTION OF YOU RETAINING PRIVATE COUNSEL WITH HOUSTON WHO FAILS TO SEE JUST WHAT YOUR OWN LAWYER COULD DO FOR YOU OTHER THAN WHAT HOUSTON, WARNER AND GREANY ARE TRYING TO DO. HOWEVER, IF YOU DID WANT TO FOLLOW THIS SUGGESTION, HOUSTON SAYS YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER BARRETT PRETTYMAN, JR., WHO HOUSTON FOUND VERY HELPFUL WITH THE HEINE VS RAUSE CASE. HOUSTON'S PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT, IF YOU DID WANT PRIVATE COONSEL, THE AGENCY SHOULD PICK UP THE TAB.

5. HAVE JUST DISCUSSED WITH WOOLSY SYMINGTON'S SUGGESTION RE PRIVATE COUNSEL AND HE POINTS OUT THAT SYMINGTON HIMSELF, WHEN FACED WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, LIKES TO SIT DOWN WITH HIS OLD

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FRIEND CLARK CLIFFORD AND TRY OUT DIFFERENT IDEAS FOR DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. WOOLSEY SUSPECTS IT IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RATHER THAN FORMALLY RETAINING A LAWYER TO ACCOMPANY OR REPRESENT YOU IN HEARINGS ETC., THAT SYMINGTON HAS IN MIND.

6. IN ANY EVENT WE SEE NO URGENCY IN THIS PROBLEM, SO SUGGEST WE LET IT REST UNTIL WE CAN TALK IT OVER DURING YOUR UPCOMING VISIT. ALL THE BEST AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THEN. E2 IMPDET.

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