

~~SECRET~~ 012340Z FEB 74 STAFF

CITE TEHRAN []

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR.

COLBY FROM HELMS (EYES ONLY)

REF: DIRECTOR []

1. I NEVER DESTROYED ANY TAPES OR ANYTHING ELSE HAVING ANY REMOTE BEARING ON WATERGATE. YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS HAVING DUG OUT OF THE FILES ITEMS WHICH NEEDED LATER EXPLAINING SINCE THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT WRITTEN FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

2. IF THE DENIAL IN SENTENCE ONE OF ABOVE PARAGRAPH SUFFICES FOR YOUR PRESENT PURPOSES, FINE. PLEASE USE IT. IF NOT, I AM NOT CLEAR ON WHAT YOU WANT OR NEED. I STILL REMEMBER WE RECEIVED MEMORANDUM FROM SENATOR MANSFIELD, AND RECORD WOULD APPEAR TO SHOW WHAT MY RECOLLECTION IS: THAT I HAD IT PASSED AROUND THE AGENCY FOR COMPLIANCE BY ALL HANDS INCLUDING MYSELF. IN OTHER WORDS, I DID NOTHING TO VIOLATE REQUEST SENATOR MANSFIELD MADE. IS IT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO GET INTO THIS QUOTE COMPLICATION UNQUOTE, AS YOU DEFINE IT, PUBLICLY OR WITH CONGRESS? DOES NOT YOUR EXPLANATION IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF REFERENCE SUFFICE? IT CERTAINLY IMPRESSES ME AS BEING

PAGE 2 TEHRAN [] ~~SECRET~~
CANDID IN THE EXTREME.

3. I CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE TECHNICIANS' NOTATIONS. I DO NOT REMEMBER PRECISE DATES OF WHEN I ORDERED WHAT TO BE DONE. I WAS TRYING TO CLEAR UP AND TIDY UP A LOT OF STUFF DURING JANUARY. INCIDENTALLY, I DO NOT COMPREHEND PURPORT OF STATEMENT QUOTE UNDERSTAND THIS JOB WOULD TAKE FOUR OR FIVE DAYS UNQUOTE. I NEVER KNEW WHAT THEY DID TECHNICALLY LET ALONE HOW LONG IT TOOK. THIS IS WHY I AM HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING SIGNIFICANCE.

4. PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH ME IF NECESSARY VIA [] ISLAMABAD. I PLAN TO BE IN PAKISTAN TILL FEBRUARY 4, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR KEEPING THAT PRIVATE, AS WELL AS FACT I HOPE TO GO TO NEW DELHI FROM THERE FOR COUPLE OF DAYS. REGARDS.

E2, IMPDET.
~~SECRET~~