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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL.
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP No. 2010-009, document 9

Dear Bill:

Pursuant to my telephone conversations with you and Mr. Inderfurth, I am writing in response to Senator Church's letter to Mr. Buchen of January 22 requesting that the Senate Select Committee staff be permitted to see the minutes of a November 6, 1970 National Security Council meeting on policy options with respect to Chile.

The record of the November 6, 1970 meeting -- actually entitled "Memorandum of Conversation - NSC Meeting - Chile (NSSM 97)" -- is in fact a virtually verbatim transcript of a candid discussion of policy options between the President and his closest advisers, including the Vice President, the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Director of Emergency Preparedness, and others. As such, the Memorandum of Conversation is in that category of materials traditionally protected against disclosure to another branch of government. Consequently, we are unable to accede to the Senator's request that Select Committee staff be permitted to review the document.

I understand from our conversation that the Committee staff is particularly interested in any reference in the record of this meeting to an assassination of Salvador Allende. I have personally reviewed the document and can assure you that there is no statement or language of any kind in the Memorandum of Conversation which could be interpreted as a reference to any assassination of Allende. Nor does the record contain any of the euphemisms or circumlocutions of the type discussed in the Senate Committee's interim report that could reasonably be construed as relating to any assassination of Allende. The Memorandum does contain a discussion of policy options with respect to economic and, to a lesser extent, political actions that might be taken against the Marxist government of Chile, but none of these references could reasonably be construed as relating to any assassination of Allende.

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For your information, there was also a document prepared for the use of the Director of Central Intelligence in briefing this NSC meeting. This document contains a reference to the assassination of Army Commander Rene Schneider. We are prepared to make this briefing paper available to appropriate Committee staff on the understanding that there will be no release or disclosure of the information without our permission. If you or Mr. Inderfurth will call my office (395-3440), we will make the necessary arrangements for you to read this document.

Sincerely,



Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

Mr. William G. Miller
Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence
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