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I would like to remind all of you here and call to your attention that it has been our position in the past and it remains the White House position that the public media and the White House briefing room are not the places to try and conduct an analysis of these charges or to make judgments regarding individuals in response to what are unsubstantiated and uncorroborated charges.

I made that point to you yesterday and several days ago, and I state it to you today in anticipation of some of your questions in relation to reports that have run this morning.

As we said and I will repeat again today, this country has provided, in its wisdom, a number of forums for this kind of inquiry and it is in those duly constituted forums which we have always felt this matter should be pursued.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to focus attention on the fact that we have stated the position of the White House to be one of cooperation in the Watergate matter. We have stated that going back to June. But I would also like to lay to rest a misapprehension that has been created with regard to the White House position on the Watergate matter, the misapprehension which has resulted from the fact that we do maintain a position that the public media and the White House briefing room is not the place to conduct an analysis of these charges or to make a judgment regarding individuals in response to the unsubstantiated charges, but also the position which we have stated regarding the doctrine of separation of powers.

The purpose of this policy is the opposite of covering up information. It is the policy which has been set with the objective to get the true facts in an orderly way.

I think you know that subsequent to the Watergate incident -- and I am going to take a moment here to remind you of this -- allegations were made in the press regarding members of the White House staff. The President, as you recall, called for an investigation of members of the White House staff regarding the Watergate matter, and as we have said before, no one in the White House had any involvement or prior knowledge of that event, and I repeat that statement again today.

I would also like to make several further points this morning: Something that has been overlooked is that from the very outset of these developments, the President instructed all members of the White House staff, present and former, to cooperate fully with those investigating the Watergate matter. And, in fact, every member of the White House staff who has been asked to supply information regarding this matter has done so, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to the Grand Jury, and to the courts. This has taken place, of course, over the past months.

But I would like to bring into focus the present also. There are two processes now under way which are examining the Watergate matter. One is the Grand Jury. The other is the Senate committee, the Ervin Committee, which is proceeding with its initial work.

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