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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

January 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Communications between DoD and National Security Council (NSC)  
Staff Elements

Secretary Laird established the policy, shortly after assuming office as Secretary of Defense, that official communications between DoD and NSC staff elements would be processed through the Secretary's office. The purpose of the procedure was (a) to minimize the potential for multiple communications channels which could act to obstruct efficiency and top-quality staff actions, and (b) to protect the staff elements, especially in DoD, from inopportune requests.

Mr. Laird has reaffirmed the above-stated policy on many occasions. Dr. Kissinger agrees with and fully supports the policy as well. The Secretary asked that I provide you with a copy of his January 22, 1969, memorandum on the subject. If you should be confronted with problems or delicate situations vis a vis the NSC staff, Secretary Laird asks that you inform him. He will be able to assist in resolving such matters.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
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MDR: 12-M-0409

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Attachment

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