CONFIDENTIAL

TO: IMMEDIATE NAIROBI INFO TEHRAN.

RE: D I R E C T O R

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

PLS PASS FOLLOWING MSG TO AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM JOHN WARNER

1. RECORD OF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS APPARENTLY EXAMINED BY HERSH DOES NOT SUPPORT HIS CLAIM THAT IN NEW YORK TIMES QUOTE HE WAS GOING TO DROP AMBASSADOR HELMS ON HIS HEAD AND THEN QUOTE.

2. IN HEARINGS OSBORN TESTIFIED RE FIRST MCCORD LETTER IN AUGUST 1972 THAT HE TOLD YOU HE FELT VERY STRONGLY IT SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO FBI. BUT ON ADVICE OF HOUSTON THAT THERE WAS NO LEGAL OBLIGATION TO DO SO YOU TOLD OSBORN TO HOLD LETTER IN SECURE FILE AND TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION ON IT.

3. OSBORN TESTIFIED THAT IN JANUARY 1973 HE SOUGHT YOUR GUIDANCE ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON FIVE UNSIGNED MCCORD LETTERS RECEIVED DECEMBER 1972 AND JANUARY 1973. YOU ASKED HIM TO SHOW THEM TO HOUSTON AND IF HOUSTON HAD NO OBJECTION RETAIN IN SECURE FILE AND TAKE NO ACTION. HOUSTON HAD NO OBJECTION AND OSBORN SO INFORMED ELIZABETH DUNLEVY.

4. OSBORN TESTIMONY DOES NOT STATE OR SUGGEST THAT YOUR DECISION WAS IMPROPER SUPPRESSION OR WITHHOLDING ALTHOUGH HE STATED HE WAS PRESENT DURING YOUR AUGUST 1972 DISCUSSION WITH HOUSTON AND WHILE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH DECISION TO TAKE NO ACTION, YOU WERE HIS BOSS.

5. ONLY SUGGESTION IN HEARINGS THAT YOUR DECISION AMOUNTED TO SUPPRESSING EVIDENCE WAS IN INTENSIVE QUESTIONING OF HOUSTON ON REASONS FOR HIS ADVICE TO YOU THAT THERE WAS NO OBLIGATION TO

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: MAR 2008
5. If Hersh indication (para 1. ref) that Hunt mentioned implies Hunt involvement in withholding letters, it is not supported by testimony. Only mention of Hunt is Osborn testimony re Office of Security investigation immediately after break-in to ascertain any agency contacts with McCord or other defendants. Osborn said quote this included Howard Hunt and everybody else. End quote.

6. Would appear Hersh attempting create expose by alleging concealment of improper or illegal suppression in what in fact was question of judgment thoroughly aired by Committee.

Best regards, John S. Warner.
End Unclassified.