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By BAF NARS date 6/27/85

Protection of Former Vice Presidents
and other Federal Officials

- Currently, the Secret Service is specifically authorized to provide protection to former Presidents, their wives or widows (until remarriage), and children under 16 years of age (18 U.S.C. 3056).
- The Secret Service has no specific authorization to protect Vice Presidents or other Federal officials after they leave office.
- The lives of the Vice President and the Secretary of State have been threatened because of their Federal service. Both now are currently protected by the Secret Service, but this protection will end on January 20 unless Congress authorizes an extension of protective services.
- In past years, the number of threats against prominent Federal officials has declined substantially after they have left office. The emergence of numerous and mobile foreign terrorist groups in the past few years, however, creates an uncertain degree of additional risk for these officials and their families.
- Because of the worldwide public identification of the current Secretary of State with the development of U.S. foreign policy and his major role in several heated, international disputes, there is particular concern about recent threats against Secretary Kissinger.
- The primary threats against the life of the Secretary of State have been made by foreign terrorist groups who are known to have assassinated other individuals and who may very well take action after the Secretary leaves office. (Middle Eastern groups--who are noted for their perseverance--are the source of the most disturbing recent threats).
- We must be willing to protect the lives of Federal officials--Vice Presidents, Congressmen, or Cabinet Secretaries--who are threatened because of the great service they have provided to their country.
- The President would be authorized to provide protection to former officials whose lives are in "significant danger as a consequence of the discharge of the officials responsibilities while in Office" and his immediate family by the Secret Service, the security force of the formal official's agency, or private firm.
- Protection would be authorized for up to six months and could be extended.
- The estimated cost of providing Secret Service protection to a former high government official would range from \$1 million to \$4 million depending upon the threat level and family circumstances. Foreign and to a lesser extent domestic travel would substantially increase these costs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1977



BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, 1977

4:00 p.m. (30 minutes)

The Cabinet Room

From: Max L. Friedersdorf *M.L.F.*

I. PURPOSE

To brief the chairmen and ranking Members of the jurisdictional committees on proposed legislation for the protection of former Vice Presidents and other Federal officials.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Background: The President plans to transmit proposed legislation for the protection of former Vice Presidents and other Federal officials at an early date, and wishes to discuss this proposal with the jurisdictional committee Members. The committees represented are: House Appropriations, Judiciary and Government Operations; Senate Appropriations and Finance.

B. Participants:

See TAB A

C. Press Plan: None - White House photographer only.

III. TALKING POINTS

See TAB B

PARTICIPANTS

The President

HOUSE

Tom Steed
Clarence Miller
Jack Brooks
Frank Horton
Pete Rodino
Bob McClory

SENATE

Lawton Chiles
Henry Bellmon
Russell Long
Carl Curtis



SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF

Tex Gunnels
Fred Rhodes
George Patten

STAFF

Jack Marsh
Dick Cheney
Max Friedersdorf
Phil Buchen
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am transmitting for consideration by the Congress an urgent Joint Resolution which would authorize the Secret Service to furnish protection to a person who as a Federal Government official or as a member of such official's immediate family had been receiving protection for a period immediately preceding January 20, 1977, if the President determined that such person may thereafter be in significant danger. This protection could not continue beyond July 20, 1977, unless otherwise permitted by law.

The lives of the Vice President, the Secretary of State, and other Federal officials have been threatened because of their service to the United States and the American people. The number of threats against prominent Federal officials normally declines after they leave office. The emergence in recent years of numerous and mobile foreign terrorist groups has created an uncertain degree of risk for the Vice President and the Secretary of State; they are natural targets for individuals and groups prone to violence. Threats against Secretary Kissinger's life are current and continuing.

We cannot in good conscience subject any departing Vice President, Secretary of State, or any other Federal official to possible harm because of his or her service to the United States. Because this danger results directly from the high visibility of their positions, I believe that the Federal Government has an obligation to provide them and their immediate families, if necessary, with protection as long as there is significant danger to their lives.

Existing statutory authority is not adequate for this purpose. Consequently, unless the Congress acts immediately, protective services necessary to ensure the continued safety of the Vice President, the Secretary of State, and other Federal officials cannot be provided after they leave office on January 20.

The emergency resolution that I am proposing is a temporary measure that would cover both the Vice President and other Federal officials currently receiving protection after they leave office. It would authorize that Secret Service protection continue for the Vice President and other Federal officials for a maximum of six months so long as the President determines that they are in significant danger. Similar protection could be extended to their families.

I urge the Congress to act swiftly on this proposal.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the United States Secret Service to continue to furnish protection to certain former Federal officials or members of their immediate families.



Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
That the United States Secret Service, in addition to other duties now provided by law, is authorized to furnish protection to a person who (a) as a Federal Government official has been receiving protection by the United States Secret Service for a period immediately preceding January 20, 1977, or (b) as a member of such official's immediate family has been receiving protection by either the United States Secret Service or other security personnel of the official's department immediately preceding January 20, 1977, if the President determines that such person may thereafter be in significant danger; provided, however, that protection of any such person shall continue only for such period as the President determines and shall not continue beyond July 20, 1977, unless otherwise permitted by law.

THE WHITE HOUSE

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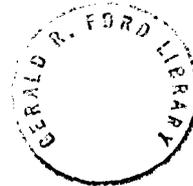
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Dear Mr. President:

I am transmitting for consideration by the Congress urgent legislation which would authorize that the Secret Service furnish protection to a person who as a Federal Government official or as a member of such official's immediate family had been receiving such protection for a period immediately preceding January 20, 1977, if the President determined that such person may thereafter be in significant danger. This protection could not continue beyond July 20, 1977, unless otherwise permitted by law.

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The emergency legislation I am proposing would cover both the Vice President and other Federal officials after they leave office. It would authorize that Secret Service protection continue for the Vice President and other Federal officials for a maximum of six months so long as the President determines that they are in significant danger. Similar protection could be extended to their families.

I urge the Congress to act swiftly on this proposal.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
President of the Senate
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

JAN 13 1977

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT

JAMES T. LYNN

Continuation of Secret Service
Protection for Former Federal
Government officials

Ohier



Attached for your approval is a joint resolution which would authorize that Secret Service protection be continued for Federal officials after they leave office if the President determines their lives are in significant danger. This protection could be provided to former officials and their families. Transmittal letters to the Speaker and the Vice President are also attached for your signature.

The proposed legislation carries out your decisions made at the meeting with Congressional leaders on January 11, 1977. It would allow protection to be continued for Vice President Rockefeller, Secretary Kissinger, and Secretary Simon, as well as their families for a maximum of six months. You indicated that you wanted this legislation to be transmitted promptly so that the Congress will have the opportunity to pass a bill before January 20.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1977



BREAKFAST MEETING WITH BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Friday, January 14, 1977
8:00-9:30 A.M. (90 Minutes)
The First Floor Dining Room

From: Max L. Friedersdorf *M.L.F.*

I. PURPOSE

To bid farewell to the newly elected bipartisan Congressional leadership of the 95th Congress, and recommend passage of legislation to provide post-inaugural Secret Service protection for certain Administration officials.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. Both the House and Senate Republicans and Democrats have elected their new officers for the 95th Congress, and three of the top four offices have changed, namely, the Speaker and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders.
2. The President has received information from the Secret Service that there may be personal danger to Secretary Kissinger and the Vice President following their departure from office on January 20, 1977 (See Tab A).
3. The President has proposed to the Congressional jurisdictional Chairman and ranking members that legislation be passed prior to January 20, authorizing the President to continue protection for the endangered officials for a period up to six months after January 20.
4. The leaders may also raise additional legislature matters with the President, including the President's intention on the pay raise matter and gas decontrol.

B. Participants: (See Tab B)

- C. Press Plan: Meeting to be announced by Press Office.
White House photos.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate each of you upon your election to offices of leadership in the Congress.
2. At the same time, I wish to extend my farewell prior to my departure on January 20th.
3. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve with all of you in a position of responsibility. You have my best wishes for success in the 95th Congress.
4. There is one piece of legislative business that I would like to mention. This pertains to the matter of Secret Service protection for certain departing Members of this Administration now receiving protection (See Tab C).

B

PARTICIPANTS

The President

HOUSE

Bob Michel
John Anderson
Sam Devine
Del Clawson
Bill Frenzel
Jim Quillen
Guy Vander Jagt
Tip O'Neill
Jim Wright
John Brademas

SENATE

Howard Baker
Ted Stevens
Bob Packwood
Cliff Hansen
Hubert Humphrey
Bob Byrd
Alan Cranston
Dan Inouye



STAFF

Bob Hartmann
Jack Marsh
Dick Cheney
Brent Scowcroft
Phil Buchen
Max Friedersdorf
Jim Cannon
Jim Lynn
Alan Greenspan

REGRETS

The Vice President
Sen. Curtis
Sen. Tower
Sen. Eastland
Rep. Rhodes
Rep. Edwards
Rep. Foley

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 14, 1977



Dear Mr. President:

I am transmitting for consideration by the Congress an urgent Joint Resolution which would authorize the Secret Service to furnish protection to a person who as a Federal Government official or as a member of such official's immediate family had been receiving protection for a period immediately preceding January 20, 1977, if the President determined that such person may thereafter be in significant danger. This protection could not continue beyond July 20, 1977, unless otherwise permitted by law.

The lives of the Vice President, the Secretary of State, and other Federal officials have been threatened because of their service to the United States and the American people. The number of threats against prominent Federal officials normally declines after they leave office. The emergence in recent years of numerous and mobile foreign terrorist groups has created an added degree of risk, especially for the Vice President and the Secretary of State; they are natural targets for individuals and groups prone to violence. Threats against Secretary Kissinger's life are current and continuing.

We cannot in good conscience subject any departing Vice President, Secretary of State, or any other Federal official to possible harm because of his or her service to the United States. Because this danger results directly from the high visibility of their positions, I believe that the Federal Government has an obligation to provide them and their immediate families, if necessary, with protection as long as there is significant danger to their lives.

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The emergency resolution that I am proposing is a temporary measure. It would allow the next President to extend protection, if the situation warrants, to one or more of the persons having protection now who would otherwise abruptly lose that protection next Thursday. The persons now having protection, in addition to me and my immediate family (of whom Betty and I, but not our children, will have continued protection under existing law) are the Vice President and the Secretaries of State and Treasury and their immediate families, but it is likely that only a few of those persons will require extended protection after next Thursday and for merely limited periods as the next President may determine. In any event no such protection could go beyond July 20, 1977 unless the Congress should act later to permit protection over a longer period in particular instances.

The adoption of this proposed resolution is endorsed by the Secret Service, and I request that the Congress act swiftly on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford



The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the United States Secret Service to continue to furnish protection to certain former Federal officials or members of their immediate families.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
That the United States Secret Service, in addition to other duties now provided by law, is authorized to furnish protection to a person who (a) as a Federal Government official has been receiving protection by the United States Secret Service for a period immediately preceding January 20, 1977, or (b) as a member of such official's immediate family has been receiving protection by either the United States Secret Service or other security personnel of the official's department immediately preceding January 20, 1977, if the President determines that such person may thereafter be in significant danger; provided, however, that protection of any such person shall continue only for such period as the President determines and shall not continue beyond July 20, 1977, unless otherwise permitted by law.

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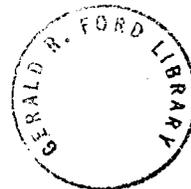
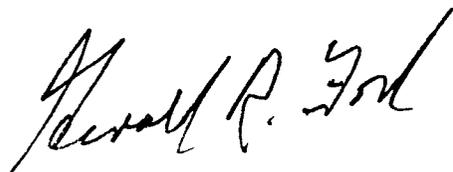
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The adoption of this proposed resolution is endorsed by the Secret Service, and I request that the Congress act swiftly on this proposal.

Sincerely,



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Cliff Hansen
Hubert Humphrey
Bob Byrd
Alan Cranston
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January 14, 1977

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

January 14, 1977

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE
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AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

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