

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 11, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The Department of Justice acting on behalf of Federal officials sued by former President Nixon and the Special Prosecutor, have today filed a joint motion in the case which was brought October 17, 1974 before Judge Charles R. Richey in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The Federal officials are Arthur F. Sampson, Administrator of General Services Administration; Philip W. Buchen, Counsel to the President; and H. Stuart Knight, Director of the Secret Service.

The joint motion states that these defendants have entered into an agreement with the Special Prosecutor and that it was made as a consequence of President Ford's determination that the due administration of justice and the public interest require that the Special Prosecutor have prompt and effective use of those Presidential materials of the Nixon Administration now located in the White House complex that are relevant and important to ongoing criminal investigations and prosecutions within the Special Prosecutor's jurisdiction.

The Agreement further states that, if implemented, it would accommodate the needs of the Special Prosecutor with respect to such materials. The Agreement has no effect on any of the Nixon materials which are not needed for that purpose, and it does not purport to resolve the issues raised by the former President in his complaint or by other parties claiming an interest in the materials for other purposes.

Under the Ford Administration, the Special Prosecutor has heretofore been provided with materials as he has needed them for ongoing criminal prosecutions by the United States, and searches of the files have been underway to provide additional materials which were requested of Counsel to the President by the Special Prosecutor for his ongoing criminal investigation.

These searches have, since October 22, 1974, been conducted subject to the Temporary Restraining Orders of the Court which were issued after application for a Temporary Restraining Order had been made by attorneys for the former President.

The purpose and effect of the new agreement between the Federal defendants in the Nixon suit and the Special Prosecutor, if it can be implemented, are set forth in the joint motion of the parties and supporting documents as filed in the Court. Copies of the motion and documents are available at the Department of Justice.