

The original documents are located in Box 18, folder “General Accounting Office - Transition” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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198
11/6

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 6, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM:

JACK MARSH

[Handwritten signature]

The attached is a matter which I believe requires close coordination between your office and mine.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 4, 1974

Tom

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JERRY JONES *[Signature]*

Attached is a letter from the GAO to Rumsfeld concerning the courier to former President Nixon. I have asked the Aide's office to prepare a letter answering these questions. In turn Don has requested that you be sent this letter and that you be the point man in dealing with GAO in this matter.

Thank you.

Attachment





OCT 31 1974

UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

B-155950
B-149372

October 25, 1974

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

We have received inquiries from several Members of Congress concerning reports that U.S. Air Force planes have been used to take materials to former President Nixon in California and that Mr. Nixon's daughter, Julie Eisenhower, has been permitted to fly to California at Government expense on at least one such flight, to visit her father. In order that we may respond to the questions raised, we request that you answer the following questions.

1. What is the authority for the periodic courier flights to Mr. Nixon?
2. How long is it anticipated that these flights will continue?
3. What is the authority relied upon for allowing a private citizen to travel as a passenger on a Government aircraft?
4. Will the Government be reimbursed for the value of Mrs. Eisenhower's flight?
5. Will such flights by Mrs. Eisenhower or others be allowed on subsequent occasions?

Your attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Higgins
Associate General Counsel



GAO

Monday 11/25/74

2:05 Mr. Buchen:

As you suggested, I have given a copy of the GAO audit request to Bob Linder and a copy to John Marsh.

cc: Mr. Marsh
Mr. Linder

11/26/74
material to
Mr. Areeda



1.45 / 11/25/74
w. red tag

Given to

Messengers

To make 2 cys

2:00 net



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
DIVISION

NOV 21 1974

Mr. Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

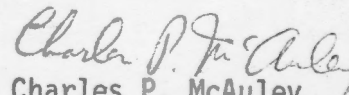
Dear Mr. Buchen:

Senate Report 93-1255, dated October 9, 1974, on the Supplemental Appropriation Bill, 1975, includes a request on pages 59 and 60 for a General Accounting Office audit and other work in connection with the recent Presidential transition.

The Committee requested that we (1) provide the Congress with a comprehensive audit of the expenditure of funds used in the transition from President Nixon to President Ford and (2) up-date our report to the Congress dated November 16, 1970, on Federal Assistance for Presidential Transitions. A copy of the latter report is enclosed for your information.

We have made arrangements with Mr. Linder of the White House staff to begin, on about November 26, 1970, our audit of the White House funds used in the transition. To up-date our prior report on Presidential Transitions we would also like to make arrangements for interviews in Washington, D.C. and San Clemente with officials involved in planning and carrying out the transition.

Sincerely yours,


Charles P. McAuley
Assistant Director

Enclosure



REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

Federal Assistance For
Presidential Transitions

B-149372

B-158195

BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES

NOV. 16 1970



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON


*cy given
to Mr. Areeda*

February 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JERRY JONES 

SUBJECT:

Response to Questions
Posed by GAO

At Tab A are two letters from John J. Higgins, Associate General Counsel of GAO, requesting some specific information about courier flights. Would you work with Phil Buchen to pull together an appropriate response to them.

For your assistance, at Tab B is a list of answers to these specific questions which was prepared by Bill Gulley for use by the Congressional Relations office. Also, if I can help, let me know.

Thanks very much.

~~cc:~~ Phil Buchen



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

B-149372
B-159835
B-155950

February 7, 1975

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

This refers to our letter of October 25, 1974 (copy enclosed), asking several questions concerning the use of courier flights to brief former President Nixon, and the presence of Julie Eisenhower on at least one of these flights. Our request was based on inquiries by Members of Congress. Additional inquiries have since been received, but we have so far received no reply to the questions.

A member of my staff who called in December concerning this matter was informed by Mr. Robert Linder of the White House staff that a reply was in process. However, since no reply has been forthcoming and in view of the fact that it is over 3 months since the original letter, we would appreciate any measures which might be taken to expedite the reply, so that we may respond to the Members of Congress without further delay.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Higgins

John J. Higgins
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure





OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

OCT 25 1971

B-155950
B-149372

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

We have received inquiries from several Members of Congress concerning reports that U.S. Air Force planes have been used to take materials to former President Nixon in California and that Mr. Nixon's daughter, Julie Eisenhower, has been permitted to fly to California at Government expense on at least one such flight, to visit her father. In order that we may respond to the questions raised, we request that you answer the following questions.

1. What is the authority for the periodic courier flights to Mr. Nixon?
2. How long is it anticipated that these flights will continue?
3. What is the authority relied upon for allowing a private citizen to travel as a passenger on a Government aircraft?
4. Will the Government be reimbursed for the value of Mrs. Eisenhower's flight?
5. Will such flights by Mrs. Eisenhower or others be allowed on subsequent occasions?

Your attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Higgins

John J. Higgins
Associate General Counsel

djk

FILE COPY - OCT 25 1971



1. Question What is the authority for the periodic courier flights to Mr. Nixon?

Answer Since Mr. Nixon left Office there have been three courier flights to San Clemente at the direction of the Commander-in-Chief who in his role as Commander-in-Chief may direct flights by Department of Defense aircraft.
2. Question How long is it anticipated that these flights will continue?

Answer The last courier flight was 4 October 1974. There are presently no flights scheduled.
3. Question What is the authority relied upon for allowing a private citizen to travel as a passenger on a Government aircraft?

Answer The Commander-in-Chief, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of the Air Force may authorize private citizens to travel via Government aircraft when it is of benefit to the United States Government or for compassionate reasons. This authority is inherent to the Commander-in-Chief and covered by Department of Defense regulations in granting authority to the Secretaries. Although infrequent, private citizens are authorized transportation for compassionate reasons. As an example, this was done for Margaret Truman during her father's illness and Lynda Johnson Robb during President Johnson's illness.
4. Question Will the Government be reimbursed for the value of Mrs. Eisenhower's flight?

Answer There is no plan to ask the former President for reimbursement for the flight made by Mrs. Eisenhower to San Clemente since the aircraft was on a scheduled trip, and an empty seat was available.
5. Question Will such flights by Mrs. Eisenhower or others be allowed on subsequent occasions?

Answer There are no plans for Mrs. Eisenhower or others to utilize government air transportation at this time, however, should circumstances of an emergency nature arise, the President could, if he deemed appropriate, authorize such transportation.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

THROUGH:

PHIL BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

FROM:

BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT:

Draft GAO Transition Report

As your requested, I have reviewed the draft GAO Transition Report and offer the following comments:

1. P. 12, line 8. To the best of my knowledge, neither Rose Woods nor Marge Acker did any work whatsoever with the Nixon tapes. I suggest that "and tapes" be deleted.
2. P. 13. With respect to the WHCA duties at San Clemente, it is my understanding that they also supported the Secret Service as well as the former President and his staff.
3. P. 17, line 13. The statement is not accurate with respect to the Court order and its effect. I suggest instead the following: "... the Counsel to the President, the Administrator, the Director of the United States Secret Service or their agents."

You should also be aware that the proposed GAO bill will remove the authority to detail persons on a non-reimbursable basis to former Presidents during the first six months after leaving office. Instead, the level of employees permitted will be subject to the appropriation process. In addition, the annual appropriations level will be substantially increased by the requirement that



the annual rent to GSA for office space must also be appropriated for the former President. This year rent for Mr. Nixon was waived, but it would have been in excess of \$70,000. Under the GAO bill, total annual appropriations for former Presidents may well be a politically unattractive amount.

