

**The original documents are located in Box 40, folder “Personnel - Sonnenfeldt, Helmut” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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For file:

"Sonnenfeldt Security File  
at State"



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

After your referral to me of the attached memo, I met with Linwood Holton and Carl Maw, the Undersecretary for Security Assistance, at State. The results of that meeting may be summarized in the following manner.

During the previous administration, efforts were made by Congressman Ashbrook and others to obtain the State Department security file on Mr. Sonnenfeldt. These efforts were largely incident to the nomination of Mr. Sonnenfeldt to a post at Treasury and resulted in the assertion of Executive Privilege by former President Nixon. The nomination was subsequently withdrawn and Mr. Sonnenfeldt is currently serving at State.

The gist of the unsubstantiated news accounts which prompted these congressional demands was that Mr. Sonnenfeldt was the source of information leaks to the Israelis during his tenure on the NSC. As you know, Mr. Sonnenfeldt was the subject of several wiretaps by the FBI.

Messrs. Holton and Maw only wanted to advise the White House that Congressman Ashbrook is airing the issue again in the context of several floor statements. Additionally, they felt that the President should be prepared to face press inquiries on the availability of the Sonnenfeldt security file -- clearly, it should not be made available in any form to the public or members of Congress.

Messrs. Holton and Maw will advise us of any specific demands which may arise in the future. Attached is a proposed Q and A on the issue.

Q: Mr. President, do you intend to make available to the public or to Congress any summary or portion of the security file on Helmut Sonnenfeldt?

A: No. I intend to follow the well-settled principle that any information gathered during an investigation on any candidate for appointment to Federal office is necessarily confidential in nature and in the interests of privacy simply cannot be revealed.


MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1974

TO: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JOHN O. MARSH, JR. 

SUBJECT: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

Linwood Holton, Assistant Secretary of State, called in reference to the demand of Congressman Ashbrook that the Sonnenfeldt file be disclosed to his committee (internal security) as a part of a continuing effort of the Congressman to review the Sonnenfeldt appointment to his present position at State.

President Nixon had consistently opposed disclosing this individual's file and I am certain that this is a view in which Kissinger is in full accord. Holton says the matter will be coming up again and he wants us to follow the precedent already set.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

copy

Ken:

Kindly follow through.

P



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Presidential  
appointment*

October 21, 1974

TO: PHIL BUCHEN  
FROM: JOHN O. MARSH, JR. *JOM*  
SUBJECT: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

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