

The original documents are located in Box 117, folder “Cleaver, Eldridge” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Eldridge Cleaver

The recommendation from Phil Buchen re Cleaver is that we refer questions to the Justice Department. I've alerted PIO there that we will do that.

Here is the scenario re the White House involvement in Cleaver's return:

Cleaver contacted an attorney in Paris who at one time worked for the U.S. Government and knew Brent Scowcroft. He wrote to Brent about Cleaver's interest in returning to the United States. Brent referred the letter to Buchen who sent it to the Deputy Attorney General, Harold Tyler, for a response. The recommended ~~response~~ response was that ^{SINCE} Cleaver's charges were brought by the state and not the federal government (except for the fugitive charge) ~~he~~ he should contact state authorities. A letter to this effect, signed by Scowcroft, was sent to the attorney. The attorney then flew to the United States and on his way to California, stopped in Washington to meet with Scowcroft, Buchen and Tyler. The reason for the meeting, Buchen said, seemed to be to tell the attorney the names of individuals to contact in California. Because more than one jurisdiction was involved, Buchen said no names were given to the attorney and he continued his trip to California. According to Buchen, that is the sum total of the White House involvement. He recommends that this info not be made public except in answer to a query. Cleaver doesn't seem to be interested in raising it.

JWH