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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cabinet Meeting, September 17, 1974 - 11:00 a.m.

President: A number of news stories have appeared, and I commented last night on the Chile deal. It is my judgment, and I think that of every President, that the prime consideration is the national interest of the United States. We need a CIA and we need covert operations. This has been done since 1948.

Henry, could you give the details.

Kissinger: There are three aspects of the problem: What is the 40 Committee? What was the Chile situation? What did we do, overtly and covertly?

We face over the world threats to democratic institutions and we need covert action to deal with them. By their nature, we don't talk about these. So how do we deal with the leaks? Britain is certainly a democracy, yet a British paper couldn't print this stuff.

Every President has instituted safeguards. The 40 Committee has existed all this time. Projects are checked with the American Embassy involved. Projects are circulated, and if they are minor, they are signed off and go to the President for approval. The Assistant to the President doesn't decide; he presides as the representative of the President. If there is disagreement -- which happens rarely -- or if they are major matters, there is a meeting, and either a meeting is held or an options paper goes to the President. After six months there is automatic review of each program. The chairmen of the relevant committees are briefed.

Covert operations are those which can't be done in any other way. If they are leaked, we cannot conduct this policy. Not much is being done, but what is, is being done because they are important and can't be done in any other way.
On Chile, the procedures were very regular, following those established under Truman.

One can argue that Allende wouldn't have won if we hadn't reduced the aid levels under Kennedy and Johnson.

What was the situation in Chile? In Chile, elections are won either by a popular majority or if there is no majority, an election in the Parliament. Allende got only 36% of the vote, and then proceeded to try to turn it into an irreversible dictatorial regime. On his left he had a group led from Cuba which accused him of not being extreme enough. This required that he concentrate on anti-US policies.

The effort of the 40 Committee was not to overthrow Allende but to preserve the democratic system for the 1976 elections. There was one famous newspaper they tried to put out of business, and they tried to throttle the opposition. Is this destabilizing? Sure, to a dictator.

The coup was produced by Allende's attempt to turn the regime into a Communist dictatorship, and the military eventually rebelled.

Last, there is the claim we waged economic warfare against Allende.

President Nixon did say we should be careful about aid to him, but the fact is that Allende nationalized American companies and defaulted on the obligation to give compensation. We didn't give any new aid but continued what was in the pipeline, and PL 480, IDB loans, and humanitarian programs. The World Bank cut them off because they were in default.

We did the same thing... There might have been proclivity for economic warfare, but the issue never came up. What happened was the result of his mismanagement and his nationalization and expropriations. Besides, we were cutting down on Chile and before 1970. He actually got more in multilateral aid than Frei.

Remember, he was an opponent of the U.S., and one can ask why shouldn't we oppose him?

President: I wanted you all to have the story. The decisions made were in accordance with the law. I think it is essential for the government to carry out certain covert activities. We will continue to carry them out.
I will meet with the Leaders and see whether new procedures are needed. In the House I was the beneficiary of these sorts of briefings by Dulles and McCone. We knew about the U-2 and the follow-up to the U-2. We will continue to carry on these operations.

Schlesinger: Most of the current money goes to support of political parties and is appropriated funds. It was decided the U.S. would use only appropriated funds.

There are funds flowing out of the Soviet Union, China, Cuba -- all over the world. If anything, we do too little. There is nothing wrong with spending money to support political parties. Dr. Kissinger did his duty and did it very well. The public expects two things -- that knowledgeable officials know of the use of appropriated funds and at the same time that they don't know about it. This attack is an attempt to get at Henry.

...In no way were the Chilean problems due to external forces. The stories leaked were based on Harrington's interpretation, and, were the facts known, they would reflect credit on those involved. Unfortunately, the leaks are usually by those opposed, and the intelligence people can't respond.

President: The reason I spoke so fully [at the press conference] was because I feel these operations are essential and were properly handled. In the future they will be continued and will be properly handled as they have been. That is my responsibility.

When we got briefed in the Congress, the CIA would sweep the room and there was the tightest security. The five of us were fully informed.

Morton: Now that the press has taken it on, can we at least get to the editorial level and get the straight story out and stop this vicious distortion, and get at least some press educated to the importance of these and of restoring confidentiality?

President: I don't think we should take on the press. It is only a few, and the best weapon is the truth.

Schlesinger: Britain has an Official Secrets Act. We don't have one. We can't blame the press -- the fault is a Member of Congress who used the material in an irresponsible way.
President: To show the different climate from the time we served, we weren't even known as a committee. It is changed now, and apparently Harrington did have access to the transcript. And Nedse has acted responsibly.

I will meet with the Congressional people to see if they want any change in the procedure.

Saxbe: You spoke of the environment. We suffer the same. We are under attack for surveillance, Wounded Knee, the break-in of the Justice Department [?]. We are under attack for enforcing the law. It is a new kind of ball game, and right now we are not prepared to handle it.

President: Our position is that the law will be upheld and we won't deal with these things on a political basis.

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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL: National security restriction
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with an immediate distribution. On his left he had a group led from left to right around him of not being gotten enough. The American concentration on the US position.

Effect of 9 0 Brits was not in another Alliances but to provide the democratic system for a 3rd election. There was one famous newspaper they tried to portray of Americans with the thrill of journalism. Did their helplessness? Even, is a characteristic.

The ways we produced by Alliancesamenti and serious with a Court relationship to reality eventually welded. Lend is commerce was waged even unorganized. Alliances.

We're trying to say we should be dealt with and to know what's the next thing. We did nothing yet. We didn't have my scene and here continued schism, HUOG FOB being, human action, party, should think out things. Of course they're different.

We will come along. These major from content. That's with everyone, just right some came up. It happened into the transmission and his maintenance. Besides, we were working on our terms before 1928. He actually got more in unification and then later Free.

Remember, he was even against the US only but that we present him.

I would open all the arrangements. The decision made into an occasion of a line. I think it essential for a point to carry out certain current activities. We will continue to carry them out. I will write of a Unies to see whether more changes are needed. In a human being, changing after some sorts of helpings by Dubai, the end.
We must urgently make US move on this pace. We will continue to work on these plans.

Most of recent moves speak to support of job, justice + improved funds.

As we decided, US would not be going forward.

There are funds totaling around 50 REA, both foreign 

a world. Anything we do is the battle. There is nothing 

may end up getting money. It is up to job, justice 

policing effort. If know how to use it, we can get a 

program until funds are spent. Meanwhile, that they don't 

bemuse not it. This attitude is nothing to 

get it done.

In no manner when Trump said it, without face.

The situation is bad. We are in Tennessee to ensure the 

see. For to become they would reflect credit on 

the involved. Unfortunately, unless we change by 

that effort, we will not get any more.

The reason I stop the effort was because I feel 

those essential, once proven wanted. He 

project will be continued will be already funded as 

they have been. I look in any way.

When we get involved in angry, It will annoy, come 

out from right wrong. Finally, we need of we were 

already involved.

Westin

Trump would have taken it, now we at least yet 

be continued will get a stronger thing and so this 

becomes clear that yet we could move faster instead 

to a wrong time of the end of continuing everything.

I don't think we should change pace. It is only

a few, on a clear way as a break.

Sollinger has, is name official to see it out, we don't have any 

funds change pressure - that is a manner of

|
City will build material in an incinerator.

P. To sound a dig climate from time to time (Peter, no.
-- --) should, in interest with known as a Kent. Changed earth, apparently. Kimpton town that child
there were the changes of dry and this with.

Similarly.

I will make every person do what they want no change
in procedure.

Said.

Can of the German: We agree. What we make
after the three climate, Warmth/line, less in the
January? I said. We under attack we replace this line.
It is a new twist of bill game, without permanent
prepared to handle it.

P. One position is that a law will be upheld, a we will
decide how things on a political basis.