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Authority EO 12958 JM

By PT NARA Date 8/19/05

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
April 21, 2005

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

December 5, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Al Haig 

SUBJECT: Items to Discuss with Elliot Richardson on Friday,  
December 5, 1969, 1:00 p.m. - Luncheon

[Omitted here is discussion unrelated to Nigeria]

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-3-

[Omitted here is discussion unrelated to Nigeria]

10. Appeal for Christmas Humanitarian Truce in Biafra. <sup>(Richardson)</sup> I propose we put before the President the choice of issuing a major appeal for a week or so of truce around Christmas to fly in emergency relief to the increasingly desperate Biafrans:

- It should be a joint appeal, enlisting the Pope, Trudeau, Heads of State of the major European donors, and any Africans who will come along, especially Haile Selassie.
- It would be strictly for relief, with no political demands on the parties.
- Even if it fails, the President's position would be visibly strengthened for the further tragedy that lies ahead, whatever the course of the war.
- Clyde Ferguson is very enthusiastic about this idea and thinks we could get everyone to sign on. The African Bureau can be expected to drag its feet for the usual reasons of Nigerian and general African sensitivities. I recommend you ask Richardson to consider the idea from all sides and give us their recommendation early next week.

I have discussed this with Richardson: Yes ✓ No       

Comments:

Appealing idea - will make proposal

Attachments

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