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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 351 OF 24 FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON POST LEAKS: HAIG'S STAFF MEETINGS.

1. HAIG SENT ME THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE ON 20 FEBRUARY VIA THE US EMBASSY HERE:

BEGINS. DEAR PETER, YOU NO DOUBT HAVE HEARD OF TODAY'S STORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST. I HOPE YOU WON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO SUCH NONSENSE. THE QUOTES ALLEGED TO HAVE COME FROM ME ARE TOTALLY WRONG.

I SUPPOSE IT'S A REMINDER THAT ONE OF THE INEVITABLE AND PERIODIC RESULTS OF HAVING A FREE PRESS IS THAT SOME PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO USE THE PRESS TO PURSUE THEIR OWN CAMPAIGNS. AS WELLINGTON IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID AFTER OBSERVING HIS SOLDIERS ON MANOEUVERS, QUOTE I DON'T KNOW WHAT EFFECT MY TROOPS HAVE ON THE ENEMY, BUT THEY SCARE THE HELL OUT OF ME UNQUOTE. WARM REGARDS, AL. ENDS.

2. I SENT THE FOLLOWING REPLY VIA THE US EMBASSY ON 24 FEBRUARY

BEGINS. DEAR AL, MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER ABOUT THE WASHINGTON POST STORY. IT WAS VERY GOOD OF YOU TO WRITE.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I DO NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO STORIES OF THIS KIND, AND NEVER HAVE. WITH BEST WISHES. PETER CARRINGTON. ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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