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]
10. **Appeal for Christmas Humanitarian Truce in Biafra.** 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:

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- **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** [mark] **No**

**Comments:**

Appealing idea - will make

**Attachments**

TOP-SECRET/SENSITIVE