SECRET/ EYES ONLY

HAK:
The following is an "aide memoire" on our talk today.

I strongly agree Richardson should "direct" the Biafra peace initiative. But there are two problems:

1. A Direct White House Role in the Probe.

--- Left alone, ER has to turn to AF.
--- Yet the Bureau (a) doesn't really want a settlement, (b) is hopelessly soft on the Feds, and (c) will concentrate on trying to trap the Biafrans and expose them in public.
--- A State probe, without us along, won't be credible to the Biafrans, who know AF as well as I do.
--- We must participate directly in the probe, clear all cables routinely, etc. if we're to protect the President's interests and goals.

2. Timing

--- State, by natural penchant and calculation, will drag their feet.
--- Now is the moment to move. Both sides have military and political incentives to respond.
--- Other tactical details can be left to ER working with us. Timing should be "immediate" as part of the instruction.

If the President approves your memo, I recommend your instruction to Richardson include:

(i) My direct participation in the probe. (Even if it comes to going into Biafra -- and, believe me, I don't relish dodging MIGs -- we just can't trust State to be neutral).
(ii) Immediate approaches to both sides.

Roger Morris