MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

MR. BOARDMAN

MR. BOEKE

MR. NICOLE

In conference with the Attorney General this afternoon
I briefed him generally as to the developments of the last twenty-four
hours in the Weinberger kidnapping case.

I took occasion to tell the Attorney General that I wanted
to again urge that decision as to whether the FBI should assume juris-
diction be placed upon the Criminal Division and no longer be continued
as the responsibility of the FBI in view of the attitude of Assistant
Attorney General Olson and the critical memorandums which he has
addressed to this Bureau.

WARREN

The Attorney General stated that he had had a long
conference with Mr. Olney and that he believed and hoped that he had
impressed upon Mr. Olney the situation and the various aspects thereof
which made the writing of such memorandums undesirable.

The Attorney General stated he was contemplating addressing
a memorandum to Mr. Olney and myself to the effect that he had reviewed
the entire situation and in view of the record which the FBI had made in
handling kidnapping cases and at the same time in maintaining cordial
and cooperative relationships with the state and local authorities, the
FBI should continue to make the decisions as to accepting jurisdiction
in kidnapping cases. The Attorney General stated that he contemplated
in such memorandum to point out the complex aspects of the problem
and the facets which are involved, namely, public relations; relationships
with the state and local authorities, and the over-all problem of public
opinion as to the confidence which the FBI has established with the public.
He stated that he thought that he would include in such memorandum the
thought that once the decision is made by the FBI, it is the responsibility
of all officials of the Department to support that decision unless they
consider the same to be wrong and then, of course, there is always the
opportunity of bringing the matter directly to the Attorney General's
attention without recourse to the writing of memoranda which might
reflect upon any branch of the Department in the minds of persons
desirous of being critical of the Department or any of its branches.

I told the Attorney General that I had reached the end of
patience in standing for the captious and highly critical memoranda
of Mr. Olney and that I was at a complete loss to understand what
purpose Mr. Olney thought was gained by writing his most recent
memorandum in which he practically charged the FBI with being
responsible for the Weinberger kidnaping. I called the Attorney
General's attention again to the fact that the FBI does not on its own
motion issue the releases but that the same are always cleared with
Mr. Mullen. The Attorney General stated that he certainly agreed
with me that the recent memorandum from Mr. Olney was entirely un-
warranted and could not be construed in any manner other than as being
highly critical of the FBI.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director