

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. WALTERS

DATE: May 12, 1973

FROM : INSPECTOR O. T. JACOBSON

SUBJECT: SENSITIVE COVERAGE PLACED AT REQUEST
OF THE WHITE HOUSE

There follows a summary of findings in our current inquiry regarding this matter conducted pursuant to memorandum from Acting Director Ruckelshaus to Mr. Felt dated 5/4/73 captioned "Wiretaps on Newspapermen."

NARRATIVE:

From approximately Spring, 1969, to early Summer, 1971, the FBI at the request of the White House, provided highly sensitive wiretap coverage in the interests of national security. (The exact times of the coverage will be provided by the Intelligence Division separately in their review of the recovered material.) The White House requests were based upon an extreme concern over "leaks" arising out of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) especially from the National Security Council (NSC) to the news media. The original requests were from either Dr. Henry Kissinger or General Alexander Haig (then Colonel Haig) for wiretap coverage on knowledgeable NSC personnel and certain newsmen who had particular news interest in the SALT talks. The specific requests for this coverage were made to either former Director J. Edgar Hoover or former Assistant to the Director William C. Sullivan (and on one occasion by General Haig to SA Robert Haynes, FBI, White House liaison). Written authorization from the Attorney General of the United States was secured on each wiretap.

Start of 15-page memorandum on F.B.I. investigation of wiretapping. It is addressed to Leonard M. Walter, who was assistant director of the bureau.