

MITCHELL IS SILENT ON KLEINDIENST PLAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (AP)—Attorney General John N. Mitchell declined today to endorse or repudiate the suggestion by his top aide that the Government refuse to negotiate with political terrorists should they kidnap any United States official below the President and Vice President.

Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst "was speaking for himself," said a Justice Department spokesman, who put the question to Mr. Mitchell.

"The Attorney General said he was glad to have his [Kleindienst's] recommendation, but he said that if confronted with a kidnapping situation in which there is a demand for release of certain prisoners, the Justice Department would only be in an advisory position," the spokesman said.

Mr. Kleindienst was reported

See "Kissinger raps kidnap concessions," filed Preparation 23 Dec 70.

(BERRIGANS)

"A Letter Opposing Kleindienst," SFChronicle 27 Mar 72, in separate folder - Kleindienst and ITT.

to have said that, in the event of a political kidnapping similar to abductions of officials in Latin America and Canada, he would recommend that the Government sacrifice officials below the President and Vice President rather than meet demands of terrorists.