

White House
NYTimes JAN 12 1974
Statement

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif.,
Jan. 11—Following is a statement issued by the President's office on the passing of information from the National Security Council to the Pentagon:

Today's news accounts relating to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and National Security Council touch on a matter peripheral to a national security issue which was found to involve deliberate leaks to the media of extremely sensitive information of interest to other nations.

This incident has been referred to on several occasions in recent months, and the Administration still considers it inappropriate for public disclosure. It may be that at a later time the facts can be made public without detriment to the national interest.

For the present, however, most that can properly be stated is that today's news accounts convey an incorrect impression of the knowledge and actions of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; that the matter was investigated at the time; that the source of these leaks was a low-level employe whose clerical tasks gave him access to highly classified information, and that today's news stories are based on fragmentary accounts of the incident.

At the President's direction, the information regarding this case has been provided on a confidential basis to the chairmen of the Armed Services Committees of the House and Senate, the special prosecutor and the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee.