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By NARA, Date 5/27

leCon
Monday, October 6, 11:40 a.m.
r. Kissinger
ecretary Laird

ecretary Laird said he wanted to get to HAK before he talked
to the President this morning to tell him how the plane came in.

Mr. Kissinger wanted to make an initial point about the "military guys"
who give the briefings -- they ought to be a little more thoughtful in
their briefings. (The briefing officer had pointed out that they had
picked up the plane about 90 miles out. The President already knew
they had lost it a minute later.)

Laird agreed that a briefing like that is misleading to the President.

Laird informed Mr. Kissinger that Wheeler will be here Wednesday
night. He'll be stopping at a Naval Base in the Philippines and then
in Japan. It will be noticed that he is leaving earlier; he is cutting
his trip short by 36 hours.

Kissinger asked if Laird thought that "it will be picked up?"

Laird said we can make sure it is, but I certainly don't want to announce
it from here.

Kissinger said he saw that there is a SAC exercise going on in October.
"I'm all for it -- but I just want to know what it is. Has it been announced?"

Laird -- no formal announcement.

Kissinger - "Will the other side pick this up? We want them to."

Laird - They will pick it up. The fact that we are exercising our bombers.

Kissinger - Could you exercise the "DevCons" (?) for a day or so in
October? I'll give you a brief as to why.

Laird - We can.

HAK - The President will appreciate it very much.

TOP SECRET

Laird said he was sending over a paper on Laos that he and HAK had discussed. The President was interested in what we are spending here. -- About 2 billion dollars a year. The paper sets out that the costs actually are and how they are broken out. He asked if Mr. Kissinger wanted it today or not?

Mr. Kissinger said it might be a good idea to prepare the President for Souvanna.

Laird said it gives the present rate; what it was the year before; and the year before.

Kissinger said he was not clear in his own mind what Laird would like to do in Laos now.

Laird said that putting in more military advisors -- I don't think that it would be good at this time. I'll put a paragraph in this memo I'm sending over.

Kissinger asked "But you are not in favor of doing less?"

Laird said he would not be in favor of going beyond what we are doing now. He'll put it in this memo and try to get it over by 2:00.

Laird added that there was one other thing. He received something on Thursday saying that the President has decided to entertain at a black tie dinner (stag-?) for the Defense Ministers who are coming for the Nuclear Planning Group. He said that his suggestion was that the President have lunch with them. Mr. Kissinger said that that was also his suggestion.

Mr. Laird said "I don't think he can do it for the Defense Ministers -- they are coming with their wives." He suggested that if the President wanted to have a stag lunch for the Defense Ministers we could have their wives for lunch at Blair House. He pointed out that the wives will already be stuck at Airlie House with nothing to do while the meetings are going on. "He can't have a stag black tie dinner."

Mr. Kissinger said he would recommend that if he has a dinner, he'll have to have the wives.

Laird said -- Otherwise a stag luncheon will take care of it. He can't have a stag dinner.

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TOP SECRET