

5 MAY 1971

CIA

CWHITEHEAD/HINCHMAN:dc

Mr. Whitehead -2 ✓

Dr. Mansur

Mr. Hinchman

Mr. Owen

Same ltr to Attny. Gen. John N. Mitchell  
Richard Hlema, DIA

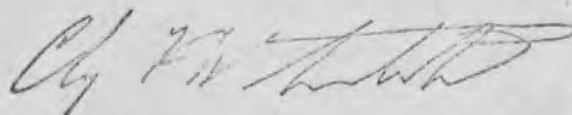
MEMORANDUM FOR:

Honorable Melvin R. Laird  
Secretary of Defense

My Office has been reviewing policy issues connected with the planning, construction, and operation of international communication facilities, working with staff from your Department and other agencies. These issues are of immediate concern to the Federal Communications Commission in its consideration of Docket 18875, which addresses the general policy to be followed. It also relates directly to action on the AT&T proposal for a new trans-Atlantic cable (TAT-6).

I have asked George Mansur, my Deputy Director, to coordinate the views of interested Executive Branch agencies in arriving at Administration recommendations to the FCC. I would like to invite you to designate a representative who can speak for your Department, to meet with Dr. Mansur and other agency representatives. I am enclosing the Executive Summary of our study of economic and technical considerations which I believe forms a useful framework for these deliberations.

The Department of State advises that for reasons of foreign policy an early action is desirable. The FCC and industry are also anxious to resolve this matter. Therefore, we would like to schedule a first coordination meeting for Friday, May 7, at 2:00 P.M., and complete the preparation of Administration recommendations by Friday, May 14.



Clay T. Whitehead

Encl.

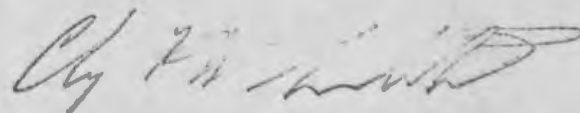
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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER

Attached for your information is a draft summary of an OTP study concerning regulation of international communication facilities. This issue is currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission; it is of considerable interest to Federal agencies, the U.S. international communications industry, and certain European nations. Of immediate concern is a pending proposal by AT&T to lay a sixth trans-Atlantic cable (TAT-6).

The Secretary of Defense, in a letter to the FCC, has expressed "strong support" for the TAT-6 application. However, DOD has agreed that "existing facilities appear to be sufficient to satisfy existing and projected NCS priority circuits.... Therefore, the need for expansion of trans-Atlantic facilities must not be predicated on U.S. Government needs alone." The DOD has supplied no other justification for its support of the TAT-6 proposal. Also, while certain European nations have a special interest in seeing additional cable facilities established, these foreign relations implications do not seem of sufficient concern to dominate what is essentially a commercial regulatory matter.

We are soliciting the views of the Departments of State and Defense, as well as other interested agencies, in order to submit an Administration recommendation to the FCC shortly. I doubt this matter is of significant concern to you; but if you would like to be involved, you may want to have someone from your staff contact Walter Hinchman (x-5190), Assistant Director, OTP, who is handling this project.



Clay T. Whitehead

Attachment

cc:

Mr. Whitehead ✓

Dr. Mansur

Mr. Hinchman

Mr. Owen

WHinchman/CTWhitehead:sbw 5/4/71

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CWHITEHEAD/HINCHMAN;dc

Mr. Whitehead -2✓

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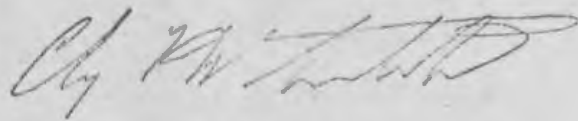
MEMORANDUM FOR:

Honorable William P. Rogers  
Secretary of State

My Office has been reviewing policy issues connected with the planning, construction, and operation of international communication facilities, working with staff from your Department and other agencies. These issues are of immediate concern to the Federal Communications Commission in its consideration of Docket 18875, which addresses the general policy to be followed. It also relates directly to action on the AT&T proposal for a new trans-Atlantic cable (TAT 6).

I have asked George Mansur, my Deputy Director, to coordinate the views of interested Executive Branch agencies in arriving at Administration recommendations to the FCC. I would like to invite you to designate a representative who can speak for your Department, to meet with Dr. Mansur and other agency representatives. I am enclosing the Executive Summary of our study of economic and technical considerations which I believe forms a useful framework for these deliberations.

We have been advised that your Department considers early action to be desirable for foreign policy reasons. The FCC and industry are also anxious to resolve this matter. Therefore, we would like to schedule a first coordination meeting for Friday, May 7, at 2:00 P.M., and complete the preparation of Administration recommendations by Friday, May 14.



Clay T. Whitehead

Encl.