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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1970

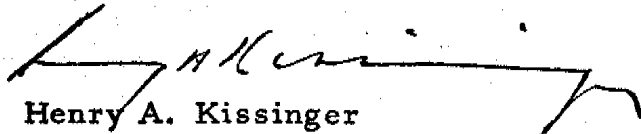
Dear Mr. Hoover:

I appreciate very much your letter of August 7, 1970, advising of the interest on the part of Soviet Embassy representatives in acquiring the Highview Towers apartment building located in Washington, D. C.

Your timely action in providing this information has made it possible to take the steps described in a memorandum for the record which I am enclosing herewith for your retention.

Effective coverage of this development by the FBI under your direction is a most important contribution, and I am deeply grateful for your continued support in matters of vital concern to the national security.

Warm regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

FBI, NSS Reviews  
Completed.

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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August 10, 1970

## MEMORANDUM FOR RUSS ASH

FROM:

Al Haig 

SUBJECT:

New Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C.

Based on the attached and after clearing with Henry, I instructed [redacted] to make the \$1.5 million available to the FBI for a pre-emptive purchase of the Highview Towers. I also instructed Bill Sullivan to coordinate with [redacted] in the morning (August 11, 1970) and to arrange for the pre-emptive purchase of the building. Finally, I told Mr. Schlesinger, Deputy Director, Bureau of the Budget, [redacted] to the tune of \$1.5 million or slightly more if required to close the deal.

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Before proceeding with the foregoing, I coordinated with the Department of State to insure that they concur in this solution. They agreed that this was the best course of action in view of the brief period of time available to us to preclude Soviet acquisition of the facility. In taking this action, it is understood that the Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue its ongoing efforts to obtain a private purchaser for the site under conditions which would permit its exploitation.

Would you please formalize the foregoing action by preparing a response to Mr. Hoover's letter for Dr. Kissinger's signature and by means of a memorandum for record, copies of which should be furnished to Mr. Schlesinger, [redacted] Mr. Hoover and Tom Huston of the White House Staff.

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Attachment

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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August 10, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Highview Towers Apartment Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Under date of August 7, 1970, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that representatives of the Soviet Embassy, Washington, D. C., were negotiating the purchase of the Highview Towers Apartment Building located at 2700 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. (The property and present ownership are described in memorandum dated August 4, 1970, attached hereto.) The asking price is said to be \$1,500,000 and the Soviets are seeking to close the transaction by August 11, 1970.

The following aspects of this development are of immediate national security concern:

- The apartment building is located at the corner of, and immediately adjacent to, the former Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital property which has been made available to the Soviet Union as the site for construction of a new Soviet Embassy.
- It is the judgment of member agencies of the U.S. intelligence community that if they are denied access to the apartment building, which is the highest structure in the immediate area, it will not be possible to conduct essential U.S. intelligence operations against the new Soviet Embassy.

From the standpoint of national security it is in the interest of the United States Government to preclude Soviet acquisition of the apartment building. To this end it is authorized and directed that the Director of the Bureau of the Budget [redacted] ta25X1 steps to transfer to the Federal Bureau of Investigation [redacted] 25X1 the sum of \$1,500,000 (or slightly more if needed) for use in the pre-emptive purchase of the apartment building--with the understanding [redacted] 25X1

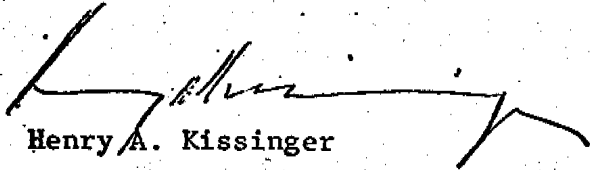
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Further, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is requested to pursue efforts to obtain a private purchaser for the building under conditions which will permit its exploitation for intelligence purposes.

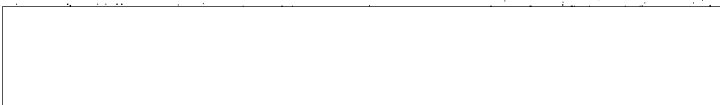
The sensitivity of the subject matter requires that it be closely held among those having an absolute need to know.



Henry A. Kissinger

Attachment

cc: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau  
of Investigation (w/att)



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Mr. James R. Schlesinger  
Deputy Director, Bureau of the Budget (w/att)

Mr. Tom C. Huston  
White House Staff (w/att)

*bcc: Secretary Rogers  
Mr Haldeman*

TOP SECRET

August 4, 1970

HIGHVIEW TOWERS APARTMENTS  
2700 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

The Highview Towers apartment building is located at 2700 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. The location is described in Volume III of "Baists's Surveys of Washington" as being located on Square 1932 and consisting of two lots, lot No. 1 containing 6,892 square feet with an assessment of \$110,272.00, and lot No. 801 containing 4,585 square feet at an assessment of \$73,360.00. Improvements on the land are assessed at \$280,000.00 for a total assessment for land and improvements of \$463,632.00. Annual tax is \$14,372.59. The area is zoned R-5C (medium density).

The building is presently owned by a corporation entitled Highview Towers, Inc., 50 per cent of the stock of which corporation is owned by William, Donald, James and Peter Calomiris. The remaining 50 per cent of the stock of this corporation is owned by John C. Pyles, Jr., General Vice-President of the Riggs National Bank. The asking price for this building is \$1,500,000.00.

Columbia Real Estate Title Insurance Company, 1422 H. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is handling the pending transaction.

The building includes eight stories plus basement, and contains a total of 94 apartment units. It is constructed of brick and reinforced concrete, and has a total volume of 566,000 cubic feet. The 94 apartments include 70 unfurnished efficiency apartments, ten furnished efficiency apartments, eleven one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom apartments. The total annual rental income is 149,202.00 for the 94 units.

Vacancy rate is negligible and the turn-over rate is extremely low.