MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY ROGERS

May 2, 1969

I pointed out to him the difficulties that the Laird approach to NSC procedure would give us in future years if it came to a question of Congressional approval. I told him I understand Laird is preparing a memo urging the President not to accept the seabed treaty but if it has to be accepted, to adopt all of the defense positions. The Secretary said he thought we could live with a ban just on fixed installations. He prefers the ban to ban formulation. He thinks it would be impossible to get a treaty without a verification provision through the Congress. He thinks the three mile limit would look foolish. I told him that Kissinger had indicated he would be getting in touch with me shortly about how one could tailor a decision that might give the Department of Defense some comfort.