[Letter from John F. Kennedy, President of the United States, to John E. Moss, Chairman, Special Government Information Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, United States House of Representatives (Mar. 7, 1962), reprinted in Executive Privilege: The Withholding of Information by the Executive: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Separation of Powers of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 92nd Cong. 34 (1971).]

The White House,

*Washington, March 7, 1962*.

Hon. John E. Moss,

*Chairman, Special Government Information Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations.*

Dear Mr. Chairman: This is in reply to your letter of last month inquiring generally about the practice this Administration will follow in invoking the doctrine of executive privilege in withholding certain information from the Congress.

As your letter indicated, my letter of February 8 to Secretary McNamara made it perfectly clear that the directive to refuse to make certain specific information available to a special subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee was limited to that specific request and that "each case must be judged on its merits".

As you know, this Administration has gone to great lengths to achieve full cooperation with the Congress in making available to it all appropriate documents, correspondence and information. That is the basic policy of this Administration, and it will continue to be so. Executive privilege can be invoked only by the President and will not be used without specific Presidential approval. Your own interest in assuring the widest public accessibility to governmental information is, of course, well known, and I can assure you this Administration will continue to cooperate with your subcommittee and the entire Congress in achieving this objective.

Sincerely,

(s) John F. Kennedy