[Letter from Herbert G. Klein, Director of Communications for the Executive Branch, to William S. Moorhead, Chairman, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Committee on Government Operations, United States House of Representatives, *reprinted in* Comm. Staff of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, Refusals by the Executive Branch to Provide Information to the Congress 1964-1973, at 441 (Comm. Print 1974).]

The White House,

*Washington, February 18, 1972*.

Hon. William S. Moorhead,

*Chairman, Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

Dear Mr. Chairman: Thank you for your letter of February 11, 1972 inviting me to appear before the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee and to participate in its hearings on the administration and effectiveness of the Freedom of Information Act.

As a matter of long established principle and precedent, members of the President’s immediate staff do not appear before Congressional committees to testify or to participate in discussions in regard to the performance of their duties on behalf of the President. This practice is, indeed, fundamental to the operation of our system of government. Therefore, I must respectfully decline your invitation.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Herbert G. Klein,

*Director of Communications for the Executive Branch*.