MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Subject: Kissinger/Smith Conversation

Kissinger told me that he had talked to Dobrynin on the first of July about the zero matter. Dobrynin said that they had never thought we took it seriously. Kissinger said that we took the same position about the Soviet attitude. Kissinger then asked me if it would be possible after we had tabled our formal proposal at Helsinki to privately sound out Semenov on possible interest in zero. I told him I thought that could be done. I urged him, however, to be sure that if we did propose it and they accepted it, that we not then back away from it. Apparently, he also talked to Dobrynin about three-to-one, pointing out the asymmetries in areas protected. Dobrynin asked him how many missiles to each site, and he said he would have to hear that from Smith.

I also suggested to Kissinger that since the offensives deal was to be just a negotiating freeze that we should not include bombers, even though I had so recommended in my letter to the President, because no bombers are being produced. He seemed to be in agreement with this.