



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

Gp-321D/eaj

1 April 1949

SECRET

MEMORANDUM for the File.

Subject: Security.

1. The following information from a thoroughly reliable and unimpeachable source has been obtained:

(a) When the recent Presidential vacation at Key West ended, the Presidential party was driven to the airport in cars. These cars had been loaned by an automobile agency for the duration of the President's stay.

(b) After the President's plane had taken off for Washington, the automobiles were driven back to Key West to have flags, etc. removed prior to returning them to the loaning agency. The Naval Intelligence Agent, who inspected the car used by the President, discovered in the unlocked trunk compartment, the President's brief case which contained the original North Atlantic Pact.

(c) This was taken immediately to the USS WILLIAMSBURG and the ship's communications officer stated that they had just lost radio contact with the Presidential plane. The ship then communicated with Washington and was informed that the latter had picked up radio contact with the plane and had a message requesting an immediate search for the brief case. Upon being advised that the brief case was already located, Washington stated that instructions were to have the same flown to Washington at once by special plane.

(d) There were no aircraft at Key West capable of this flight and a special plane was requested from NAS, Jacksonville which flew to Key West, picked up the brief case and carried it non-stop to Washington.

2. The above is for record purposes only. The incident was held closely and received no publicity.

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Authority *MAN* 73643