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Information Sheet on "Hot Line"
7/25/08

Your inquiry about the Hot Line Messages exchanged between President Johnson and Chairman Kosygin has been referred to me.

I have attached a copy of a document from our holdings that lists all of the Hot Line exchanges. It is from the National Security File (NSF), NSC History, "Middle East Crisis, Volume 7, Appendix G," Box 19. [Document #6 see below]

If you are only interested in the texts of the messages, you can find all of them in the *Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS), Volume XIX, Arab-Israeli Crisis and War, 1967* which is available online at the Department of State web site: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/johnsonlb/xix/>. The online index to that volume has an entry "Hot line communications" that lists the FRUS document numbers for the messages as well as several memoranda concerning the use of the Hot Line during the Six Day War. The Soviet messages are available there in English translation only.

You can find images of several of the Hot Line exchanges, as well as a photo of the Hot Line machine itself, online on The Presidential Timeline: <http://www.presidentialtimeline.org/>. Launch the Timeline, then go to the section on Lyndon Johnson, then scroll over to the entry in 1967 on the Six Day War. If you click on that button, you will see several documents listed on the bottom of your screen which you can then enlarge.

If you would like photocopies of the actual messages, you can purchase them at a cost of 30 cents per page plus shipping and handling. The Hot Line exchanges are in the NSF, NSC History, "Middle East Crisis, Volume 7, Appendix G," Box 19. That folder contains copies of memoranda about the Hot Line (some of which are also in FRUS) and copies of the messages. The messages from Chairman Kosygin are available there in Cyrillic as well as in English translation. There are 40 pages in that folder.

The Library also has a Reference File on the Hot Line which includes copies of some of the material found in the NSF, NSC History, as well as scattered documents we have found in other files concerning testing of the Hot Line and a March 1965 Defense Department "fact sheet" about it. That folder also contains a copy of a *Reader's Digest* article about the Hot Line written in August 1968 and a *New York Times Magazine* article written in September 18, 1988, as well as a few other press clippings. There are 40 pages in that folder, and you can purchase photocopies of that material.

President Johnson discussed the Hot Line in two of his recorded telephone conversations: one is with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara on June 5, 1967, 7:57AM, Citation #11903 on Tape WH6706.03, PNO 3; one is with US Ambassador to the UN Arthur Goldberg on July 15, 1967, 9:15AM, Citation #72003 on Tape WH6707.01, PNO 2. You can listen to the recordings of those telephone conversations on the University of Virginia's Miller Center "White House Tapes" web site, which is listed on the attached list of useful web sites.

There are a number of Oral Histories on the LBJ Library web site in which the use of the Hot Line is discussed. You can access the transcripts of those interviews at: <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/biopause.asp>. I searched under the term "hot line" and received 12 hits, including interviews with Robert McNamara, Dean Rusk, McGeorge Bundy and others. CIA Director Richard Helms also discusses the Hot Line in his Oral History Interview I. It is not on our web site but is available on the Miller Center Oral History web site which is included on the attached list.

President Johnson also discussed the Hot Line in the chapter "Six Day War" in his memoirs, *The Vantage Point*.

WASHINGTON-MOSCOW "HOT-LINE" EXCHANGE

Page			
2.	June 5, 7:47 am.	Kosygin	UAR-Israeli Fighting
4.	June 5, 8:15 am.	White House	Relay of Rusk to Gromyko Message on Hostilities
6.	June 5, 8:47 am.	Johnson	Actions to End Hostilities
8.	June 6, 5:34 am.	Kosygin	Call for Cease-Fire and Withdrawal
10.	June 6, 10:03 am.	Johnson	UN Negotiations - UAR Charges
12.	June 6, 6:57 pm.	Kosygin	Negotiations at UN
14.	June 6, 7:45 pm.	Johnson	Cease-Fire Resolution Agreed
16.	June 7, 8:18 am.	Kosygin	Cease-Fire Ignored
18.	June 7, 11:03 am.	Johnson	Status of Cease-Fire
20.	June 8, 9:48 am.	Kosygin	Status of Cease-Fire
22.	June 8, 11:00 am.	Johnson	USS Liberty
24.	June 8, 11:35 pm.	Johnson	Cease-Fire Actions
26.	June 8, 12:20 pm.	Kosygin	USS Liberty
28.	June 8, 3:36 pm.	Johnson	USS Liberty
30.	June 10, 8:48 am.	Kosygin	Israel Continues Fighting
32.	June 10, 9:30 am.	Johnson	Assurances from Israeli
34.	June 10, 9:44 am.	Kosygin	Fighting Continuing
36.	June 10, 10:53 am.	Johnson	Status of Ceasefire
38.	June 10, 11:31 am.	Kosygin	Next Steps
40.	June 10, 11:54 am.	Johnson	Military Action Ending

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