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## OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

September 28, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI  
FROM: WILLIAM E. ODOM  
SUBJECT: The IVORY ITEM That Never Was

This morning we received word from DOD that an IVORY ITEM would be conducted, involving everyone but the President, i. e. that it would come through WHCA switch to David Aaron (in your absence) and me. The event was to occur before noon but did not.

This afternoon I learned "indirectly" that Harold Brown could not get his CINC's and the Chiefs convened on a secure conference call however much he wished! Admiral Holloway, in New Delhi, had no secure voice available, and several of the CINC's could not reach their secure phones in the time frame allotted.

This episode does not mean that we could not make the system work in the real event -- that would be done by non-secure lines, and CINC's not answering would be by-passed. It does point up sharply, however, the limits to our secure voice net. It also points up the enormously utility to these IVORY ITEM drills in giving the NCA a sense of communication and timing realities.

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WEO:nm:9/28/77