National Security Decision Memorandum 109

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Secretary of Transportation

SUBJECT: Pan American Highway and the Darien Gap

The President has reviewed the memorandum of May 5, 1971 from the Chairman of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee concerning the Darien Gap Highway project and has directed that priority attention be given to accelerating construction of the highway. He has approved the recommendations contained in the Chairman's memorandum that:

-- The Department of State undertake consultations with the Governments of Colombia and Panama to obtain their approval of and cooperation in the accelerated schedule;

-- The Departments of State and Transportation undertake consultations with the Appropriations Committees of the Congress to obtain their cooperation in expediting action on pending and future appropriations requests to finance the project.

The President has directed that the NSC Under Secretaries Committee report to him within sixty days on the outcome of these consultations and on steps taken towards accelerating construction of the Darien Gap Highway.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Administrator, Agency for International Development  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries Committee