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[Conversation between the President and Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Deputy National Security Advisor]

[Secretary]: Go ahead, Mr. President

Nixon: Yeah.

Haig: Yes, sir.

Nixon: Al, one point that I may not have made clear. I do not want this second exercise I pointed out to be limited to new countries. It’s to include all countries, see – that we give aid to, see?

Haig: Yes sir, I caught that.

Nixon: Like Yugoslavia, Romania, Ethiopia, for example – there’s one.

Haig: Exactly.

Nixon: Ethiopia. Liberia – did you call that a contested election?

Haig: [Chuckle] No sir.

Nixon: Hell, they haven’t had one there since the slaves went over.

Haig: No, I told them to expand it to all countries –

Nixon: They just don’t understand what I meant. The thing I want them to understand – Aiken – the same – you can …Vietnam can be described as a democratic process, but the question is, is the present leader there as a result of a contested election, a legitimately contested election? Not a ten to one affair, but a, not a – you can’t even describe Mexico as that.

Haig: No, that’s correct sir.

Nixon: Mexico is a one party government. You can’t describe Colombia as a contested election.
Haig: That’s right.

Nixon: Because they – you see my point? Give those as examples. Mexico is not contested … I’m not going to put the countries out, but I’m gonna get the number out, see? Mexico is not contested, Colombia’s not contested.

Haig: Exactly.

Nixon: Each party shifts it back and forth, see?

Haig: Fine sir.

Nixon: Okay.

Haig: Yes sir.

Nixon: Bye

-end-