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RELEASED IN FULL

Telcon  
Secretary Kissinger  
Secretary Rush  
1/24/74; 9:28 a.m.

K: Hello.

R: Oh, Henry.

K: Yes, Ken.

R: Good morning. I yesterday had a meeting with Thompson, who is Under Secretary of the Foreign Office.

K: Yes, I know him.

R: And the other British on Diego Garcia. And they are, of course, willing to have us use Diego Garcia and expand it but and they want to turn this into an improvement of our relations which they say have not been too good of late. One thing they said Heath has insisted on, however, is that we consult them on any use that may not be just strictly normal use. And of course I am resisting that to the fullest extent I can. But Thompson has no authority whatever to change it and we are trying to use as innocuous language on consultation as possible. I pointed out to them that this could be very inhibiting factor as far as they are concerned.

K: Unless we have substantially unrestricted use it isn't a lot of help to us.

R: It is not a hell of a lot of help to us unless it is uninhibited. I think maybe we will be able to get some consultation language that will not be too restrictive. But they say politically that it is impossible for them obviously to give us unrestricted use. Jim called me yesterday and said he realized that unrestricted use was impossible but we would try to get the word "full use" which maybe we will be able to work in. But without a reversal by Heath himself we will not be able to use it without consultation. And of course on all of our other bases we do have to have some kind of consultation with them. The negotiations are going to resume this afternoon. Cy Weiss is primarily conducting them. After I headed them I talked with them and spent the day together. I just wondered if you had some further thoughts you wanted me to give them.

K: Well, I just think we should have the greatest possible use of the base and if they would give full use and have some consultation phrase that isn't too inhibiting -- but have we checked with Defense.

R: I talked with Jim and I am going to call Jim again after I get off this phone with you, and tell him just what the situation is. We will have to have some consultation thing but as I say I hope it can be as -- we are trying for something that will be innocuous as possible and if we don't get it we will continue to negotiate instead of giving in very quickly.

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K: That's right.

R: But we will have to have something. I think he is right. kPolitically they couldn't very well give us unrestricted use or they would be assailed for giving up their sovereignty.

K: Well that I can understand but there can be some formula saying we will keep them informed or we will consult them to the extent possible.

R: Or something like that, Henry. Or language to the effect that we recognize in some very unusual situations his party recognizes the desirability of consulting or something of that sort that would leave the door open as far as possible.

K: Right.

R: Good.

K: Well why don't you let me see the final formula before we . . .

R: Before we agree to it.

K: Before we agree to it.

R: Right. Thank you.

K: Thank you.

R: Fine, Henry.