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X208*

Telcon
Secretary Kissinger
Secretary Simon
11/3/75; 2:35 p.m.

RELEASED IN FULL

S: (Missed the first part) Since I left your office this morning I've been thinking a lot and predictably I had calls from a couple of reporters whom I trust greatly. And I just gave them my opinion of this -- totally off the record because on this there is an argument that the Treasury Secretary shouldn't be visibly involved at all.

K: And what opinion did you give them?

S: I gave them the opinion -- not opinion, very strong factual statement that Henry Kissinger was not involved in this one iota and indeed I wanted them to first tell me what their logic was because that's the way the discussion started. What their logic was -- how Henry Kissinger could possibly benefit from something like this. They floundered around a little and, you know, the conversation just evolved.

K: The guy that cut me up inside this building isn't going to cut me up any less in Defense.

S: It is going to be worse, Henry.

K: Huh?

S: It is going to be worse.

K: That's right.

S: And I . . .

K: And I know you and he are going to form a team.

S: That would be a team!! That'll be a team!!

K: (Laughter)

S: You know, I think I have succeeded. There is a fellow named Jim Weighart from the Daily News who was about to write an article and when he left here he said to me I am delighted I had this conversation because this has softened my opinion of the whole episode. Novak's another one. Irving Levine is another one. And I am telling you poeple that will be fair. At least I believe they will be $\frac{1}{2}$ fair about this whole thing.

UNCLASSIFIED



- 2 -

K: Does Novak also think I had engineered this?

S: He is not as strong in his feelings as all of the others were. And then one even told me that Peter Lisagor, whom I haven't talked to. I don't know Peter that well so it looks suspicious if I called him. And He hardly ever calls me. Certainly he wouldn't call me on an issue like this. He is writing, I am told, or has written for the afternoon papers This is all Kissinger, the whole thing.

K: Yeah.

S: So I have done my share and will continue to to make sure that this thing is played the way it ought to be played. They way, Henry, in my judgment that it is going to be when some of these nitwits take a step back and think about it a minute . . .

K: That's right. Well, Bill, you have been a great friend and I won't forget this.

S: Well, I am going to keep going and you will see articles here/ there and I'll get all the guys I can trust and we all know what reporters we can trust and the reporters that we can't.

K: Well, I can't do anything for myself.

S: Of course not.

K: And anything you can do I would appreciate it.

S: You just consider me a one-man band working in the other direction. Because I am credible in this whole issue because Obviously I mnot affected one way or the other.

K: Let's right. You know, to moneky around with the whole NSC machinery when things are going reasonably well and there is no dispute anywhere, It is scary.

S: That's correct. Correct.

K: I'll see you this evening.

S: Yeah. Goerge called me and told me that he is going to be at the 6:00 meeting tonight.

K: Terrific.



S: So if we have a little chat afterwards, I'll bring you up to date.

K: Let the three of us sit down.

S: I think that will be a good idea.

K: I'll ~~not~~ make it a briefer meeting and we will have a little chat.

S: Great.

K: Good.

S: Okay, thank you, Henry.

K: Bye.