

APPEALS PANEL ACTION: RELEASED IN FULL

SH260

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TELCON  
Sec Kissinger/President Nixon  
2/13/76; 2:50 p. m.

(missed first part)

N: I thought your press conference was splendid. It got a good play in the papers which is not important but it played very well on television.

K: Thank you.

N: You showed what I know is honest emotional outrage and it will shake these people a bit.

K: Good.

N: That was my view on the thing and what people say here too.

K: I appreciate it very much. I don't know whether they showed it. They asked me about your trip and I said I thought it would strengthen our relations.

N: I cannot quite hear you.

K: I said again what I said before.

N: When we talked we did not have any idea they had, they were going to have a change in leadership.

K: Actually, I told the President this morning it is an important time you are going. We are doing a paper for you which I am going to ship out.

N: It is very important to find out what their views are and to reassure them with regard to our view.

K: And to get them off this idea we are soft on the Russians.

N: Don't worry. I can do that better than he can because I understand the thing.

K: Of course. <sup>They</sup> ~~There~~ seemed to be a little suspicious of me these days.



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N: You know what I will do. I am going into all the meetings without anybody. I am not going to take any aid or interpreter and just go alone. They will, I think, ~~get~~ speak considerably more frankly than they otherwise would.

K: When are you actually leaving?

N: The plane is to leave on the 20th. They want us to arrive on the 21st.

K: So that's next week.

N: I will be back in March.

K: I might be out on the west coast and drop in to see you at that point.

N: There is a lively press interest. As far as I am concerned I plan to make no statements except the toasts, which are required and I will not meet with the press here or there upon returning. As far as anything that happens, though, I want you to know that I naturally would only discuss that with you or Scowcroft or a top guy.

K: Right. Nancy may go to Palm Springs, Mr. President, to recuperate and I might come out to see you if that is agreeable.

N: Whenever you like.

K: I notice Reagan is going after our foreign policy.

N: I have had no contact with him directly at all.

K: Yes.

N: I saw a news source, I cannot vouch for it, but one of our guys here I said who is advising him. The news source indicates on a private basis it was Schlesinger. I cannot believe he would advise those statements. Needless to say, I cannot do anything with him. Do you know what can be done?

K: I don't know. If he keeps going after me I will have to get after him.

N: Both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense have had to stay out of political activity. That always comes when there is one party against another. I think handling it obliquely they will get the message much better in terms of those who do not understand or



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or cannot make decisions that affect survival or civilization on the basis of it.

K: I side-stepped a direct answer.

N: I thought you did it very well. The President of course should not but you should not because you have been longest in the Administration.

K: I am going to do my damndest to stay out of the primary.

N: Don't even do anything by name. Do you see what I ~~was~~ am getting at?

K: Absolutely.

N: I will always defend the policy but not in any platforms. Regardless of party. If the criticism is made I wouldn't question the good intentions of anybody but there may be a lack of understanding. Sort of along that line. Otherwise they will come after you even eventually on the Democratic side. If they were in they would sell out the job. Jackson . .

K: Of course. I have no interest in getting into the political campaign.

N: I know you have no interest. I just don't want you to get in. Stay above the battle. When you do that, you are in. On this Pike committee, I assume the White House kicks the living \_\_\_\_\_ out of them.

K: I hope so. I am going to Latin America next week.

N: I understand you are.

K: I will send you a paper and I wish you a very good trip and hope to see you when I get back.

N: When are you getting your paper here?

K: On Monday.

N: Good. I will read it on the plane.

K: Good.

N: Have a good trip.

K: Thank you.