

RELEASE IN FULL

SE 211

TELECON
President Ford/Secretary Kissinger
April 1, 1975
7:15 PM

K: Mr. President.

F: Henry, how are you?

K: OK. How are you?

F: Fine. You should be out here today. It's beautiful.

K: I'm really looking forward to coming out on Thursday evening. I understand Fred Weyand was delayed in Saigon because Thieu could not seem him until today or tomorrow.

F: That's what Jim Schlesinger told me this morning. I talked with ___ and Fred would meet me ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in San Francisco on Friday before coming down here with us, so I would see him in San Francisco on Friday and then he could come down and the 3 of us could meet here.

K: That's very good. One thing I know Jim has talked with you on the evacuation in Phnom Penh. My suggestion is that we tell the government that you're planning to give a speech on the 9th or 10th. I would recommend the 10th.

F: It has to be the 10th because of the speakers plans. It's definitely set for the evening of the 10th at 9:00.

K: That gives us a little more time to work on it. I would propose that we tell them in that speech that you're going to make any effort for aid, just to give them something to hold on us in the meantime rather ____.

F: I think it's wise.

K: If we start moving people out, there's going to be a total collapse before you could _____. With your permission I would like to send off a cable and do it on that basis. We'll tell them your plans for a speech. This will give them something to hold on for and in the meantime we'll pull out 200 ~~Americans~~ Americans.

F: Jim tells me 60-70 who had not really ___ over the present situation.

K: That's right and there are some people in ___ agencies.

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F: I think we should present this.

K: I think we plan to pull out 150 people over the next few days. It may trigger the collapse but I don't see that we can do much about it. ~~E~~ If we send them the message I discussed with you, I think that would sort of balance it.

F: I seemed to me that if we send it to them, they would have to hold out until the 10th because of what I was going to say and if anything went wrong, it could be badly misunderstood and exploited. As long as we do _____.

K: What I would propose to put into the cable is this. We would inform them of ~~a~~ your plan ~~xxxx~~ for a speech and you could ask for aid. We leave the decision up to them and we'll ask their government of their decision and that ~~a~~ we'll take out non-essential personnel and we'll tell them you're giving a speech so they don't ~~xxxx~~ collapse the day we start pulling out Americans.

F: I think that's the right way to handle it.

K: We have to start developing evacuation plans for Saigon. It hasn't reached that point yet, but there's more Americans there. We should have the plan but not necessary do it.

F: I think the development of plans should ~~b~~ get started right away but closely held.

K: Absolutely. It has to be closely held. We had a message from Sadat and he says that he really doesn't want to ~~a~~ make any new proposals until he hears something from the Israelis. The domestic ~~xxxx~~ situation is too confusing. I think we could get those talks started again if we went all out. I must tell you I'm ~~xxx~~ no longer sure if that's what we want to do.

F: My general reaction pending any new information you bring when you're here is that we seem to be getting a better hand on the situation by pursuing the ~~xxxxx~~ course we are.

K: Otherwise we can get into a position of the gambler who just moves ~~a~~ into a proposition to recover his losses.

F: We ~~xxxxx~~ tried getting a decision as a result of the discussions _____.

What

K: That's right. /We may have to consider doing is to put forward a comprehensive plan. We might get total bipartisan support for it.



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F: Did you see where McGovern got out of recognizing the PLO?

K: I have to say it's not really against our interests. He's behaved very well on this trip. He followed our guidance very responsibly.

F: That's encouraging. I must say that particular point is helpful.

K: I think we'll find that he'll support the main line of our policy. I think at this point we may have to spill as much blood of the Jews to pull Israel into a settlement to pull forward a plan to make it once and for all and then get it over with.

F: Your friend Taft Schreiber is coming down to see me at 5:00. Is there any particular message you want me to give him. Should I talk to him as I talked to Max?

K: I would talk rather strongly..

F: I don't know him.

K: Taft is not very bright. He's a good agent but he's a hell of a nice guy. He's extraordinarily well disposed towards us. Among the Jewish leaders I think he would be very well disposed. I would not give him all the details. I would give him about 50% of what you gave Max.

F: I just wanted some background. I don't know him that well. I'll moderate it but give him the proper feeling I have. The community here understand it's in their interest.

K: That may be but we ought to look out to make a permanent peace and not just take a short step.

F: Any developments on Cyprus?

K: No. We have a Turkish government now. I would suggest sending Hartman out there as soon ~~xxxxxxx~~ as next week sometime. I had breakfast with senator Byrd. He said he's in total support of our foreign policy. We can count on him. The next time the Turkey things come up he'll vote and work for it and on the ~~Arab~~ Arab/Israeli thing he completely on our side. He asked for the breakfast -- I didn't.

F: If we can keep him, ~~xxxx~~ he's more powerful in certain areas than ~~xxxx~~ Mike is and he'll work at it where Mike will give you all the sympathy and greatness but Rob will work at it..



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K: And Dobrynin called to say he wants to talk SALT. I may see him on Thursday before I go away.

F: That could be helpful.

K: I think we'll get that in shape.

F: Scoop Jackson is in Palm Springs. He's going to be in San Diego the day I'm there and he's going to be in San Francisco the day I'm there. I'll clip out his press briefing. He's going to be critical of me, you and the foreign policy.

K: If he hasn't done it already.

F: Yes. It's a typical ~~Jackson~~ Jackson line.

K: I think he's finished.

F: Do you feel there's any criticizing about my being out here at the present time?

K: No. Absolutely no. I think ~~we~~ nervous people around you naturally protect you. There's not a damn thing you can do here. There's no decisions to be made while Vietnam is being ~~dismantled~~ dismantled. You're very active. I have not seen any comments like this nor have I heard anything.

F: That's encouraging. That makes me feel better.

K: The President ought to ~~be~~ be able to unwind once in a while.

F: We had a good three hours up in _____. It helps to get that legislation. It will get up to 200 million barrels a day and that will be about a million dollars a day. If we got it up to 400,000 barrels in 18 months, it will be damn significant.

K: I think you're gaining in strength in the country.

F: We have a recent private poll which is indicative of that on a California and world-wide basis. Anything else?

K: No. Those were the main events today.

F: I hope you're looking forward to a nice weekend.

K: I ~~will~~ look forward to it and the rest. I'll see you Saturday morning.

F: OK. We'll see you Thursday night before hand.



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K: What time are you leaving on Friday?

F: I'm leaving about 8:30 because I'm going up and take a look at the
project about ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 100 miles from San Francisco. And
then I go to the luncheon with the governors and then I'll see Fred
Weyand possibly in the mid-afternoon and then a big dinner by some
1000 of the top community leaders in San ~~Francis~~ Francisco and getting
back Friday about 11:00 or 11:30.

K: Right. I'll let ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Don know when I'm
arriving on Thursday.

F: We'll get ~~together~~ together after you get here Thursday. Give Nancy
our love.

K: Thank you Mr. President and our best to ~~Betty~~ Betty.

END