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TELECON ^{Ikle}
Mr. ~~DeLo~~/Secretary Kissinger
February 6, 1976
Time: 2:00 p.m.

RELEASE IN PART B6

K: Fred, I am leaving for Boston but I wanted to tell you one thing. You are, of course, directed by statute to have your opinion, but you are not entitled to cast personal aspersions on the Secretary of State under whose policy direction you are operating. Remarks like you made yesterday are totally unacceptable.

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E: Which remarks were.....

K: When I say something is non-negotiable and you say by saying it I am guaranteeing that it will be non-negotiable you are.....

E: I was thinking of our overall way of handling it as a government over the long-term, not your stating an assessment at one point.

K: I have a high regard for your book on negotiations, I have agreed with 90% of it. I thought there were a number of remarks made which I am baffled at. I don't understand how the Arms Control Agency can put itself to the right of the Secretary of State on issue after issue. If you want to be the voice of the Pentagon, that is

E: I would take aspersion to that interpretation. We have been trying to find ways of solving the backfire problem -- we are not to the right there. One concern or it may seem so is the impact on theater systems and follow-on negotiations on SALT III that is of total concern to me. How we handle the follow-on negotiations will make a big difference.

K: I don't want to get into a substantive debate now. I think the President will have to sort it out. I think he is being put in an unconscionable position of having to overrule so many agencies.

E: You don't see in the mixeture of alternatives a broad support.

K: I believe that next hear Congress will take over and our bargaining position will be worse. And this year the Russians have to use our figures and we can't have different positions every three weeks. I am not going to permit the State Department to put forward any more ideas now. It is a ridiculous way of proceeding.

E: I would like to have a further chat with you to hit a few points. The verification problem is a very serious management problem for the next few years. Secondly, the balance of systems is another arms control concern. Because of those I may give the appearance of being on the Pentagon side.



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K: I don't have a position really. I am trying to determine where we will be five years from now with an agreement or without an agreement. I am convinced we are talking ourselves into a posture of confrontation without the means to support it.

E: Would you want me to set up a time for us to meet?

K: I am going up to Boston and will be there for three days. After that you can do it.

E: As you wish. We will have the meeting, of course.....

K: I am not going to be very active at these meetings any more.

E: In the last meeting we didn't have the time to raise certain problems. I wanted to explain these longer-term concerns which are identifying

K: Why don't you set something up for next week. It doesn't matter if it is before the meeting or after. The NSC is on Thursday, isn't it?

E: Yes. Fine.

K: O.K. I have to run. Bye.