

SH 244 *

TELCON
Sec Kissinger/Bill Clements
2/10/76; 3:20 p. m.

RELEASE IN FULL

K: The point I want to make, as long as I am Secretary of State George Brown has to behave a little more respectfully towards me. We still have civilian control for the time being.

C: Henry, I could not agree more. Did you see something today?

K: I just don't like that sneering tone. We are not negotiating with Jackson. We are negotiating with the Russians.

C: I couldn't agree more and I am fairly sensitive to that kind of thing.

K: I am generally down on Defense. I think what has been leaked is unbelievable.

C: I agree with you. I don't know where they are coming from.

K: You read the Murray Marder article.

C: On Sunday?

K: Yes. It was not even _____ against me but it stated I colluded with the Russians; he had been told to go back with Option 2 which NSC had already rejected. After we had agreed with something, I went to the President and got a better instructions and that is what my critics say.

C: That is awful.

K: Then you read Time. They quote Defense saying the country doesn't need SALT, the Administration doesn't need SALT, Kissinger needs SALT. I don't need SALT. I would be a hell of a lot happier without it.

C: You and I have been

K: I do believe that next year . . . supposing Humphrey gets to be President. You will not get B-1; you will not get cruise missiles. If he doesn't get to be President, if Ford stays, we will still be negotiating with a much tougher deadline but I don't give a damn.

I think the first 2 options are absurd. I think the only 2 options worth talking about are 2A and 3A. I think we want to go from 2A to 3A. I don't think either will work but they have an intellectual responsibility to them. I would not personally go that way because . . .



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C: Which way would you prefer?

K: I would have _____ more on what happened in Moscow the last time and say what we could have done. I could support 2A and I will support anything that is decided anyhow.

C: I will too and/I know that.
you

K: You are, look, Bill. Whatever happens, you have been one of the finest men in Washington I have met.

C: I know that and I am extremely pleased to know that. I am complimented and flattered and it makes me feel good and I fully reciprocate.

K: When I think where this country is going. And this _____ we are torturing ourselves with. The way we are going we put foreign policy -- it is weak. Around the world I am considered one of the better foreign ministers. Everything gets put in that restraining my actions is a national objective. You read the Time piece.

C: I have not read it. Henry, I have to come to George's defense a little bit because if you sensed that this morning, I missed it. He doesn't feel that way.

K: It is getting to be a national disgrace the way we are dealing with each other. I came back from Moscow. I had Wade with me and he gets beaten to death for selling out with me. You might think we are two hostile governments.

C: I will tell you, I think Schlesinger is feeding this.

K: Schlesinger. He said the reason Angola is going badly is that we are not willing to address the problem. When he was there, did he say one thing about Angola.

C: Hell, no. He is a first-class horse's ass.

K: Are you going to be at the 4:00 meeting?

C: Yes. With George.

K: I will be there from 4 - 4:30 and I will leave when you start.

C: That's good. (laughs)

END