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White House Telephone

[The President spoke to the Secretary of State, William Rogers]

Nixon: Hello?

[Secretary]: Secretary Rogers.

Nixon: Yeah. Hello?

Rogers: Hello, Mr. President.

Nixon: Hi, Bill.

Rogers: I just wanted to tell you that the calls you've made have been, I think, quite successful.

Nixon: Except Italy and Mexico though, huh?

Rogers: Yeah. I'm going out to my house to see the Mexican foreign minister right now, but in the case of ...

Nixon: What...Italy gonna abstain?

Rogers: Yes...goddamn 'em.

Nixon: That's a...that's a courageous damn this to do, isn't it?

Rogers: Isn't it though?

Nixon: On the other hand they could have gone the other way, I suppose.

[Conversation about Portugal, Morocco, Senegal and Togo]

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Nixon: Let me say this that, ah...of course except for the European countries where we have no choice, but in the future whenever any African country – I mean where we have to do these little do-dads, when they submit them to . . . and they come in, the presidents call and so forth – believe me, if they vote against us on this, I don't care how it comes

out, I'm not going to see 'em. Because it's the least they can do, we don't ask much from them and we give a lot to them. You know, really, it's a pretty goddamn lousy thing. Now you can't do that to the Mexicans, of course, you can't do it to the Canadians and...

Rogers: Well, with the Mexicans though, I'm going to tell Rabasa that he'd...Echeverría had built up an awful lot of goodwill with you.

Nixon: That's right, that's right.

Rogers: Now in the case—

Nixon: And with the Mexicans you could say that we feel that we ought to go together and that we both are going to have good relations with the Chinese communists and with the other—

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Rogers: I think, Mr. President, we ought to reconsider the whole idea of putting all our eggs in this multilateral basket. You know, these little countries don't appreciate it when we give 'em things, these—

Nixon: Absolutely!

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Nixon: And all we do is talk about the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Fund and the Inter-American Fund . . .

Rogers: That's right, exactly.

Nixon: . . . I personally believe, myself, that we lose enormous advantage there, I couldn't agree more. And also, you know, the thing is that all the – the Peterson Committee and all the rest say, "Let's do it multilaterally." Well, that's the internationalist. But goddamn it, it doesn't help the United States!

[Conversation continues, unrelated to Mexico]