

October 25, 1971
3:01 – 3:11 pm

Conversation No. 12-116
Cassette No. 1177
White House Telephone

[The President spoke with William Rogers]

[Secretary]: Mr. President?

Nixon: Hello?

[Secretary]: Secretary Rogers, returning your call.

Nixon: Ok. [. . .] Well, you're not playing golf today are you?

Rogers: No sir. No I just spend two or three hours with the foreign minister of Mexico who's a terrible bore. I can't tell – you know what's happened Mr. President on these things is that the communists have been pretty clever. They have worked it out with Belgium and Peru to establish diplomatic relations and have it announced tomorrow, just before the vote.

Nixon: Mm-hmm.

Rogers: They're damn clever people.

Nixon: Mm-hmm.

Rogers: We had Peru on our side –

Nixon: We did, really?

Rogers: Well, we'd changed their mind. Velasco said he'd agree with us and then after the foreign minister talked to him later on, and he reversed his position again and said they were going to announce the diplomatic relations and they were afraid that it would upset their plans if they voted with us.

Nixon: Well, they can tell them it doesn't upset our plans, we're –

Rogers: Yeah, well we've told them. We've told them everything we can tell them.

Nixon: I know you have, sure. Well, goddamn it you get an A for effort, and that's important!

Rogers: Well, I'll tell you I don't suppose in the history of the country we've ever made a more vigorous effort.

Nixon: Well you know, really, when you come down to it you've been up there seeing 95 ministers and then talking to them and . . . My God, I don't think in the history of the country the President's ever made long distance calls before to a king, a prime minister, a president, and uh, you know. We really put the heat on them.

Rogers: But I think it does show that we've got to start looking to see who are friends are and we've got to play it real hard. Because, taking this case of Mexico, I told them, I said, "Look it. Your president has established a very good rapport with President Nixon; he's just gonna lose it." I mean we just—

Nixon: You put it that way to him?

Rogers: That's right.

Nixon: Good!

Rogers: I said we're gonna have good relations with you and so forth—

[Removed Section]

[Conversation continues, unrelated]