

March 27, 1972  
7:51 – 8:04 pm

Conversation No. 22-34  
Cassette No.1820  
White House Telephone

[The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger]

Kissinger: But here in this town, one really suffers from myopia when one is...

Nixon: Don't you really? Yeah.Yeah.

Kissinger: I assure you, Mr. President, for the Mexicans – I mean they're not gonna vote–

Nixon: Oh, they're important.

Kissinger: But you are the only American political figure that matters. I had a long talk with their foreign minister, I had a talk with their president –

Nixon: Were you in Mexico City?

Kissinger: Well, the foreign minister came to Acapulco and then the President asked me to stop in Mexico City on the way out.

Nixon: Good, good.

Kissinger: So I...went in there for a couple of hours.

Nixon: Went over to the... Los Pinos?

Kissinger: He said that when he comes here he wants to go to every American city that has a large Mexican population [unintelligible].

Nixon: Did he say that? Yeah.

Kissinger: From Chicago, Los Angeles, San Antonio...

Nixon: Good, good. Well, let's lay on a hell of a stick for him. Because he's a very attractive guy, and strong and...

Kissinger: [Unintelligible: He would agree... common sense for Latin America ... even though we've neglected Latin America.]

Nixon: Sure. Maybe we can get something ready by that time, or do you think – ? We don't want to throw that at the OAS...

Kissinger: Oh no, no, no.

Nixon: It would be a waste.

Kissinger: It would be a total waste. [Unintelligible: He's going to give us something that...].

Nixon: Good. And that he'll suggest in other words what we can do, and then let's just come forth with a communiqué that really has some solid meat in it, huh?

Kissinger: Exactly. And in any event he said he wants to travel to Chicago, Los Angeles, San Antonio...

Nixon: Great.

Kissinger: He says...[unintelligible]...Remember I didn't ask for it. I thought he was going to try to talk about salinity in the Colorado River.

Nixon: Yeah! [Laughs] Oh yeah?

Kissinger: Which is what his foreign minister did. [Unintelligible.]

Nixon: Yeah. You mean he sees the drama of the big events?

Kissinger: Well apparently, all the Mexicans were watching the China trip on television.

Nixon: Really?

Kissinger: So. You know, at a couple of the dinner parties in Acapulco where they actually have...[unintelligible].

[Conversation continues, irrelevant]