

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 2/24)

Conversation No. 47-1

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: 8:04 am - unknown before 11:59 pm
Location: Cabinet Room

The President met with Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, William P. Rogers, John B. Connally, Melvin R. Laird, John N. Mitchell, Winton M. ("Red") Blount, Rogers C. B. Morton, Clifford M. Hardin, Maurice H. Stans, James D. Hodgson, Elliot L. Richardson, George W. Romney, John A. Volpe, George P. Shultz, Robert H. Finch, H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, Henry A. Kissinger, Clark MacGregor, William E. Timmons, Peter M. Flanigan, Herbert G. Klein, Raymond K. Price, Jr., Alexander P. Butterfield, Ronald L. Ziegler, William L. Safire, Dr. Edward E. David, Jr., Robert J. Brown, Paul W. McCracken, Arnold R. Weber, Caspar W. ("Cap") Weinberger, Arthur J. Sohmer, Robert E. Patricelli, Kenneth R. Cole, Jr., John R. Price, Jr., and Gary Cook

[This segment was declassified on 02/28/2002.]
[National Security]
[047-001-w003]
[Duration: 39m 12s]

General Conversation

Greetings

Patrick J. Buchanan

Department of Defense

Cabinet Secretaries

John. B. Connally

-Brief report on military operations
-Southeast Asia
-Melvin. R. Laird

Report on Southern Laos
-Military operations

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- South Vietnamese forces
 - Hostile action in Southern Laos
- United States forces
 - Demilitarized zone [DMZ]
 - Blocking position
 - Hostilities
- South Vietnamese forces
 - Ho Chi Minh trail complex
 - Equipment; Military stores
 - Disruption of supply lines; warehouse facilities; pipeline
- Effectiveness of operation
 - Measure of success
 - South Vietnamese forces
 - Number of troops
 - United States forces
 - Mission
 - Operating area
 - Engineers
 - Building road
 - Air support
 - South Vietnamese operation
 - Location in Laos
 - Disruption of supply lines; warehouse facilities; storage spaces
 - Sorties
 - Number
 - Casualties
 - Reports
 - Helicopters
 - Losses
 - Casualties
 - Success of operation
- Difficulties of operation
 - Fighting
 - South Vietnamese forces
 - North Vietnamese forces
 - Battles
 - South Vietnam
 - Confidence
 - United States support
 - Air Force

Northern Laos

- Situation report

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- North Vietnamese troops
 - Ahead of schedule
 - Plain of jars
 - Occupation
- United States allies
- United States losses
 - Aircraft
 - F-4's
 - Inaccurate reports
- Operations
 - Central Intelligence Agency [CIA]
 - Funds
 - Testimony before Congress
 - Budget

Operation in Cambodia

- General Do Cao Tri
- Success
 - Air sorties
 - South Vietnamese
 - Enemy Killed in Action [KIAs]
 - South Vietnamese losses
- Number of troops
- Location of operation
 - North Vietnamese difficulties
- Tri
 - Success
- South Vietnamese plans
- Publicity for operation
 - Creighton W. Abrams
- Success
 - Stability in Cambodia
- Air Force
 - Growth

Areas of conflict

- Cambodia
- Laos
- South Vietnam
 - Settled areas
- North Vietnamese
 - Main forces

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Indochina war

- General statements
- Winding down
- United States casualties
 - Decline since 1969
- Deployment of forces
- Withdrawal of United States troops
- Air sorties
 - Reduction
- Costs of war
 - Reduction
- Decline in United States involvement
- Shift of operating areas
 - Occupied areas
- South Vietnamese military force
 - Improvement
 - Number of troops
 - Air power
 - Helicopters
 - Fixed wing aircraft
- Vietnamization
 - Success

Predictions

- Uncertainties

- Laotian operation
 - Publicity
 - South Vietnamese operation
 - South Vietnamese confidence
 - Congressional limits
 - Appropriation
 - Withdrawal program
 - Congressional reactions
- Cambodian forces
 - United States military assistance program
 - Growth
- Success of operation

Laos and Vietnam operations

- The President's role
- Congress
- Operation

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- Planning

Laos Operation

- Helicopter losses
 - Significance
 - Previous losses
 - Decline

Northern Laos

- Fighting

Southern Laos

- Blow at enemy

Discussion of war

- Enlargement of war
 - Policy flexibility
 - U.S. involvement
- South Vietnam incursion

Southern Laos

- Level of fighting
- Population
 - Scarcity
 - Civilians
 - Pathet Lao
- Timing
 - Weather
 - Rainy season
- Success of operation

Lon Nol

- Illness
 - Public statement
- Cambodia
 - Unity
 - Support for government
- Popular support

People's Republic of China [PRC]

- Possible intervention
 - Likelihood

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[Previous National Security (B) withdrawal reviewed under MDR guidelines case number
LPRN-T-MDR-2014-013. Segment declassified on 12/20/2017. Archivist: AY]

[National Security]

[047-001-w001]

[Duration: 19s]

People's Republic of China [PRC]

-Northern Laos

-Presence

South Vietnamese incursion

-Length of stay

-Flexibility

-Goals

Helicopter pilots

-Training

-South Vietnamese

-Restrictions

South Vietnamese divisions

-Deployment near homes

-Helicopters

-Number

-Size of forces

-Fixed wing aircraft

-Compared to United States army

-Equipment

South Vietnamese operations

-Laos

-United States air support

-Necessity

-Gun ships

-Transfer to South Vietnam

-Transfer program

-United States equipment to South Vietnamese

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Questions

- Cambodian operation in 1970
- Effect on South Vietnam

Cambodia

- South Vietnamese accomplishments

Laos operation

- Length of time
- Successes
- Objectives
 - Withdrawals
 - South Vietnamese chances
 - Withdrawals

Casualties

- January 1969
- Decline

United States troops

- Number

South Vietnamese

- Achievements
- Opposition

Domestic opposition

- American establishment
- Lack of support
- Success of administration's policies

Cambodia

- North Vietnamese sanctuaries

Laos

- Withdrawal
 - Danger to United States forces
- Expansion of war
 - Hanoi's role
- End to United States involvement
- Chances of success

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Vietnam

- Limitations
- Administration policies
- Viable foreign policy
- United States achievements

Richardson on the health program

- The Vice President
- Background
- Reform
- Study
- Proposals
 - Range of opinions
- The President's position
 - Reforms
 - Effectiveness
 - Past social programs
- Socialized medicine
 - Compared to United States' medical system
- Richardson's program
 - Details

The President left at 8:48 am

- Administration recommendations on Capitol Hill
- Improvements
- Richardson's trip to New York
- Health programs
 - Goals
 - Problems in present system
 - Approach
 - Emphasis on quality
- Improvements in United States' health care
 - Maternal deaths
 - Rate
 - Decline
 - United States' rate compared to other nations
 - Reporting system
 - Data on health
 - Differences in reporting system

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- Low-income people
 - Whites
 - Non-whites
- Mortality rates
 - Figures
- Resource allocation
 - Rural areas
 - Availability of care
 - Catastrophic care costs
 - Prevention
 - Problems
 - Solutions
- Major health care problems
 - Approach
- National health insurance
- Edward M. ("Ted") Kennedy's program
 - Diversity
 - Freedom of choice
 - Regulation
 - Health care system
 - Emphasis on prevention
- Administration proposal
 - Health maintenance organizations [HMOs]
 - Medicare recipients
 - Comprehensive care
 - Fixed prices on care
 - Doctors' charges
 - Interest groups
 - Medical societies
 - Foundations
 - Fixed prices
 - Advantages to government recipient
- General practitioners
- Specialists
 - Government encouragement
 - Legislative proposals
 - Insurance options
 - Financial assistance
 - Medical schools
 - Legal obstacles
 - Supremacy clause of Constitution
 - Antiquated state laws
 - Use of paraprofessionals

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- Regional scarcities
 - Reasons
 - Rural and inner city areas
 - Teaching hospitals
 - Manpower problems
 - Solutions
 - Family health centers
 - Location
 - Expansion
 - Training
 - HMOs
 - Support
 - National Health Service
 - Public Health Service
 - Draft exemptions
 - Teaching clinics with medical schools
 - Reform of medical education system
 - Financial distress aid
- Primary care specialists
 - Decline in number
- Reform of medical system
 - Administration proposals
 - Increased funds for medical schools
 - Role of federal government
 - Medical school costs
 - Students
 - Federal government relief
 - Grants to school
- Medical schools/education
 - Graduates
 - Curricula
 - Government funding
 - Formula
 - American Medical Association [AMA]
 - Number of graduates
 - Special projects grants
- Minority students
 - Scarcity areas
 - Scholarships
 - Loans
 - Guarantees
 - Forgiveness of loans
- Allied health personnel

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- Responsibilities
- Training
- Scarcity areas
 - Loans to physicians
 - Primary care
- Forgiveness provisions
 - Problems
- Construction grant programs
- Preventive health program
 - Doctor-patient partnership
 - Education programs
 - Research
 - Cancer
 - Sickle-cell anemia
 - Accident prevention
 - Venereal disease
 - Alcoholism
 - Family planning
 - Community health
- National health insurance
 - The President's proposals
 - Standards
 - Minimum levels
 - Coverage
 - Catastrophic provisions
 - Private sector
 - Coverage
 - Deductibles
 - Costs to employees/employers
 - Deductibles
 - Stress on awareness of cost
 - Employee contributions
 - Tax system
 - Impact on health plans
 - Incentives for employers
 - Deductions
 - Anomalies
 - Tax questions
 - Problems
 - Employee contributions
 - Incentives
 - Collective bargaining
 - Impact on business

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- Department of Health, Education, and Welfare [HEW] report
- Number eligible
 - Costs
 - Business expenditures
- Costs
 - Increases
 - Small business
 - Impact
- Alternatives
- Federal employees
 - Low option choice
 - Costs
- Small business
 - Exemptions
 - Subsidies
 - Costs
 - Impact
- Private plans
 - Number enrolled
- Dilemmas of HEW proposals
- Costs
 - Low-income people
- Small businesses
 - Impact of national plan
- Working poor
 - Coverage
- Unemployed
 - Coverage
- Medicare
 - Working poor
 - Disincentives
- Self-employed people
- Problems with national plan
- Modifications in the President's plans
 - Actuarial calculations
- Cost calculations
- Catastrophic coverage
- Richardson
- Stans
 - Concerns
- Problems
 - Cost
 - Coverage

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- Small business
- Employee
 - Current plans
 - Disincentives
- Misuse of system
 - Prevention
- Alternative to federal take-over
- Increasing health costs
- Tax bill
 - Income taxes
 - Social Security
- Federal responsibility
 - Family coverage
 - Eligibility
 - Welfare families
 - Children
- Uniformity
- Deductibles
- Private plans
- State supplements
- Expense of federal program
 - Limitations
- Consolidation of Medicare programs
 - Premiums
- Medicare
 - Deductibles
 - Reasons
- Deductibles to new programs
- Tax structure
 - Deductibles
 - Medicare/Medicaid
 - Effect on costs
- Problems in health insurance plan
 - Public acceptance

[Previous archivists categorized this section as unintelligible. It has been rereviewed and released 03/09/2018.]

[Unintelligible]

[047-001-w002]

[Duration: 4m 47s]

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General conversation

Mandate

Gerald R. Ford

Wall St.

The President

Private insurance
-Insurance companies

History

Communication

College

The Vice President and unknown people left at an unknown time before 11:59 pm; unknown people remained

Health insurance
-Cable television
-Exemptions
-Public Health Service
-Expansion
-Use of draft
-Legislation
-Public Health Service

Recording was cut off at an unknown time before 11:59 pm