

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/08)

Conversation No. 539-1

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: 10:00 am - 10:11 am Location: Oval Office

The President met with John C. Stennis, F. Edward Hébert, William P. Rogers, William E. Timmons, Clark MacGregor, Kenneth E. BeLieu, and Henry A. Kissinger

[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

US foreign policy

- -The People's Republic of China [PRC]
- -Congressional action
 - -Perception of restriction of the President

Vietnam War

- -Cease fire, troop withdrawal
- -Prisoner of war [POW] issue
- -Effect of Congressional action
 - -Michael J. ("Mike") Mansfield
 - -Stance
- -US goals
 - -Number of US military casualties
 - -POW return
- -Effect of Congressional action
 - -On the President
 - -On a possible settlement
 - -House, Senate votes
- -Mansfield
 - -Possible effect of PRC trip on attitude
- -Strategy
 - -Limitation on the President's freedom of action

General conversation

The President, et al. left at 10:11 am

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Conversation No. 539-2

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 10:11 am and 10:13 am

Location: Oval Office

H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman [?] met with Alexander P. Butterfield [?]

[Unintelligible]

The President entered at an unknown time after 10:11 am

White House furnishings

The President, et al. left at an unknown time before 10:13 am

Conversation No. 539-3

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 10:14 am and 11:12 am

Location: Oval Office

Unknown men [Secret Service] met

The President
-Location
-Cabinet Room
-Schedule

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******************************* BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1 [Agency Policy] [Duration: 47m 55s] [An unknown person talked with an unknown person at an unknown time Converto 163943 (cand) 11:12 am] [Conversation No. 539-3A] [End of telephone conversation] [An unknown person talked with an unknown person at an unknown time between 10:14 am and 11:12 am] [Conversation No. 539-3B] [End of telephone conversation] END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1 ******************************** Recording was cut off at an unknown time before 11:12 am

Conversation No. 539-4

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 11:12 am and 11:18 am

Location: Oval Office

The President talked with an unknown person

Schedule

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Conversation No. 539-5

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 11:12 am and 11:18 am

Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown person

Item for the President's Old Executive Office Building office

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 11:18 am

Conversation No. 539-6

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: 11:18 am - 11:37 am

Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman

Meeting

-Rogers C. B. Morton

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

[Personal Returnable]

[Duration: 55s]

Henry A. Kissinger entered at 11:19 am

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

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The US initiative towards the People's Republic of China [PRC]
     -William P. Rogers' role
           -Media coverage
          -Briefing book
     -Media coverage
           -The President's role
           -Kissinger's role
                                                                 Conv. No. 539-6 (cont.)
                -Rogers
                     -The State Department
     -Public perceptions
     -Newsweek article, Time article
          -Tone
                -Presidential role
                     -Covers of magazines
                           -The President, Chou En-lai, Kissinger
     -Columnists
           -Hugh S. Sidey
     -Public statement by the Soviet ambassador to Indonesia
     -Briefing for White House staff
          -President's role
          -Request for meeting
          -Kissinger's role
          -Secrecy in negotiation
          -President's role
Schedule
     -Kissinger
White House staff briefing
     -Leak of story
     -James B. ("Scotty") Reston story
Meeting with Congressional leaders
     -J. William Fulbright
     -Rogers' role
     -John C. Stennis' comment to Kissinger
           -Michael J. ("Mike") Mansfield
                -Mansfield Amendment
                -Rogers
                -Vietnam War settlement
                     -Release of prisoners of war [POWs], cease fire
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-Self-determination

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Conv. No. 539-6 (cont.)

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-Kissinger
Kissinger left at 11:29 am
     David M. Kennedy
          -Use of airplane
                -Payment
                     -Rogers
                     -State Department
               -Comparison with the President's 1967 world travel
     John B. Connally
          -Schedule
     The President's schedule
          -The Bohemian Grove
               -Possible visit
     Polls
          -George H. Gallup
               -Edward M. ("Ted") Kennedy
                     -Comparison to Louis Harris' poll
          -Presidential approval poll
                -Effect of Pentagon Papers case
          -Gallup
               -Poll results
                     -Potomac Associates
                          -John W. Gardner comparison
                          -Vietnam War settlement issue
          -Timing of polls
               -News impact
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Cabinet

Schedule

-Support for administration

-The President's television appearance

- -John A. Volpe
- -George W. Romney
- -Walter J. Hickel

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Congress
       -Appropriations Committee
           -Scheduling
   Schedule
       -Clark R. Mollenhoff
           -Bureau Chief
       -Richard ("Dick") Wilson
                                                 Conv. No. 539-6 (cont.)
   The PRC initiative
       -Kissinger
           -Rogers' role
       -Media coverage
           -The President
           -Kissinger
               -Newsweek
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BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 32s ]
END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
Alexander P. Butterfield entered at an unknown time after 11:29 am
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-Kissinger's briefing in the Roosevelt Room

Butterfield left at an unknown time before 11:37 am

[Haldeman talked to an unknown person at an unknown time between 11:29 am and 11:37 am]

[Conversation No. 539-6A]

Schedule

Instructions for Kissinger

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[End of telephone conversation]

The President and Haldeman left at 11:37 am

Conv. No. 539-6 (cont.) Conversation No. 539-7

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: 11:58 am - 12:08 pm Location: Oval Office

The President met with Ronald L. Ziegler

The People's Republic of China [PRC] initiative

- -Briefing of Congressional leaders and Cabinet
 - -President's role
 - -Henry A. Kissinger's role
- -Reaction by other countries
 - -William P. Rogers
- -Briefings
 - -Speculation
 - -Expression of views
 - -Taiwan issue
 - -Vietnam War
- -Vice President Spiro T. Agnew
 - -Knowledge
 - -Wire service report
 - -Kissinger

Agnew

-Statements made in Madrid, Spain
-Comments about African Blacks

-Slavery

-US Black leaders

-Domestic, foreign impact

-Ralph Abernathy

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US-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR] relations

- -General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Kissinger
- -Summit possibility
 - -The President's stance

Taiwan issue

-Perceptions

Conv. No. 539-7 (cont.)

Cover photographs

-Use by magazines

-The President

Foreign relations

-The PRC, Vietnam

- -Democratic response
 - -J. William Fulbright
 - -Michael J. ("Mike") Mansfield

Congressional leaders meeting

Ziegler left at 12:08 pm

Conversation No. 539-8

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 12:08 pm and 12:48 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull

Staff meeting

-Schedule

-Henry A. Kissinger

Bull left at an unknown time before 12:48 pm

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Conversation No. 539-9

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 12:08 pm and 12:48 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull

[Music box plays "Hail to the Chief"]

Staff meeting

-Schedule

-John D. Ehrlichman

Children

-John [Surname unknown]

-Music box

-Visits to the Oval Office

-Gifts

Bull left at an unknown time before 12:48 pm

Conversation No. 539-10

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 12:08 pm and 12:48 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull

Copies of *Time*, *Newsweek*-Thelma C. (Ryan) ("Pat") Nixon

Bull left at an unknown time before 12:48 pm

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Conversation No. 539-11

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 12:08 pm and 12:48 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull

The barber's schedule

Bull left at an unknown time after 12:48 pm

Conversation No. 539-12

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 12:08 pm and 1:08 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President dictated a memorandum to Henry A. Kissinger

The US-People's Republic of China [PRC] initiative
-Kissinger's press briefing
-Content

[End of dictation]

Kissinger entered at 12:48 pm

Kissinger's schedule

- -Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
- -John B. Connally
- -The press
- -July 20, 1971

-Meeting with conservatives

The PRC initiative

- -Staff meeting
 - -Patrick J. Buchanan

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-Press story
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-The PRC's stance

- -North Vietnam
- -News magazines
 - -Coverage
- -Knowledge
 - -Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, William P. Rogers
 - -Call from Joseph W. Alsop

Conv. No. 539-12 (cont.)

- -State Department knowledge
 - -Comparison to Cambodian action
 - -Future handling of announcements
 - -Possible Soviet summit
- -The President's visit to Perino's Restaurant
 - -Press coverage
- -Effect of announcement
- -Memorandum for Kissinger's briefing
 - -The President
- -Meeting in Lincoln Sitting Room
 - -The President, Kissinger

Kissinger left at 12:55 pm

The President dictated a memorandum to Kissinger at an unknown time between 12:55 pm and 1:08 pm

The PRC initiative

-Kissinger's press briefing

-Content

[The President played back a portion of the dictation]

[End of dictation]

[This dictation continues on Conversation No. 539-13]

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Conversation No. 539-13

Date: July 19, 1971

Time: Unknown between 12:55 pm and 1:08 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President dictated a memorandum to Henry A. Kissinger

Conv. No. 539-14 (cont.)

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 539-12]

The People's Republic of China [PRC] initiative
-Kissinger's press briefing
-Content

Conversation No. 539-14

Date: July 19, 1971 Time: 1:08 pm - 1:21 pm Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman

The People's Republic of China [PRC] initiative

-Henry A. Kissinger

-Briefing

-Cabinet

-Memorandum

-Kissinger

-John A. Scali

-Chou En-lai

-Cabinet

-Staff briefing

-Confidentiality

-The press

-Reason for briefing

-Kissinger

-Comparison to Cambodia, Laos

-Rogers C. B. Morton

-Leaks

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- -News magazines
 - -Coverage
 - -Kissinger
 - -State Department, William P. Rogers
 - -Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, Melvin R. Laird
 - -Marshall Green
 - -President's role

Conv. No. 539-14 (cont.)

John B. Connally

- -Forthcoming meeting with the President
 - -Previous meeting with Haldeman
 - -Schedule
 - -July 19, 1971 meeting
 - -Forthcoming Congressional testimony
 - -Kissinger's briefing
- -Perceptions on Cabinet role
- -Possible departure from the Cabinet
- -Management style
 - -State Department
 - -Council [of Economic Advisors?]
 - -George P. Shultz
- -Compared to David M. Kennedy

Cabinet members

- -Relations with the President
 - -John A. Volpe
 - -John D. Ehrlichman
 - -George W. Romney

Connally

- -Schedule
 - -Forthcoming Congressional testimony
- -Time of meeting with the President

Schedule

- -Ehrlichman's request to see the President
- -Appropriations Committee
- -Domestic issues
 - -Ehrlichman's perception of meetings

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-Congressional leaders meeting
-Peter H. Dominick
-Clark MacGregor
-Connally

The President and Haldeman left at 1:21 pm

Conv. No. 539-14 (cont.)

Conversation No. 539-15

Date: July 19, 1971 Time: 1:21 pm - 1:22 pm Location: Oval Office

An unknown man [Secret Service] entered

The President's location
-Executive Office Building

Recording was cut off at 1:22 pm