

TELCON
The President/Mr. Kissinger
12:37 p.m., March 7, 1973

- P: I hope I wasn't too blunt with our good friend, Pauls.
- K: I thought it was superb, Mr. President. I think it was essential.
- P: I was watching you out of the corner of my eye.
- K: I was hoping you would say it.
- P: I wasn't going but I just thought we ought to let a shot across the bow there.
- K: I tell you, Mr. President, when he raised the issue, I kicked myself for not having in the talking paper what you finally said.
- P: But you think -- Good. Did it get home to him?
- K: Oh, yes. He came to my office for a few minutes and really told me what he felt.
- P: Well, of course, he probably disagrees with Brandt, doesn't he?
- K: Oh, yes. He's on your side.
- P: All right. But let's let these people know that they can't have it both ways.
- K: It is essential, Mr. President, because that's the only way we'll get a rational . . .
- P: You know, as you've often said, the thing we do so often -- I mean, not talking papers -- that only the historians will record how many times we, you and I, have had meetings -- sometimes together Sunday lunch -- with people and getting things across like this, which nobody really ever did before with them. You can't imagine anybody from State Department talking to them like that.
- K: And to do it on a philosophical basis, Mr. President.
- P: So it didn't embarrass him.
- K: So that it could be done in a -- The State Department is good at selling particular policies.
- P: I know, I know.

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2

K: But not in giving any sense of direction.

P: He'll get that back to Bonn, won't he?

K: You can bet. No question about it.

P: Good. Now on this other thing -- the strike -- we're going to try to plan that for the weekend.

K: Or early next week.

P: But let's be damn sure now that we really have something to hit. I just don't want to fly a lot of stuff over there.

K: Well, we're hitting in Cambodia now.

P: That's good. But step it up. I mean, I see no reason not to really whack the hell out of them in Cambodia.

K: The question is whether we should hit also on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

P: On the Trail, I understand. But if they're continuing to violate the thing, I think we've just got to -- but if there's enough. But you know, these Trail things, you remember -- the point is not to use a F-105 to hit one truck. None of that crap!

K: No, no, but they are going day and night now. So we could fly during the daytime. We could do a 24-hour thing and we'd probably raise a lot of hell. I mean, it would be basically a shot across the bow.

P: It wouldn't stop it but it would maybe frighten them a little.

K: Which is what we want.

P: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, I'll look it over. Thank you.

K: Right, Mr. President.

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