

St. Dept Kissinger

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TELECON

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Secretary Schlesinger/Secretary Kissinger

March 23, 1974

3:52 PM

K: Hello

S: Hello, Henry.

K: Jim, On this, I agree that was a stupidity on Ebair(sp?). The reason Sadat wants us to do it, he can get it from the Russians and from the British.

S: I know, but there are two things that have to be done. First, the foreign policy (inaudible)

K: OK I'll do it when I get back.

S: And secondly, I could do it.

K: Or you do it, if you want to.

S: I could do it in part for you, but I can't substitute entirely, I think your personal ways

K: I'll call him Friday.

S: Secondly, we want the Navy to go up there and explain the nature of that operation and that there is really very little risk. Virtually no risks at all to US personnel.

K: Both would be good.

S: And the Navy is perfectly happy to do this. The Navy is fully supported by the operation. I'm not sure the Navy would want the to come out of its hide.

K: About \$10 million for Christ's sake.

S: It is fully support of the operation. I think we can show [redacted] Getty around.

K: Good.

S: Now what else is there? We are having real problems on the massive increase and that's in trouble. I trust we will be able to get an agreement with the Thais that we are studying the reduction.

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K: I have signed off on that thing on that paper and that should be coming over to you on Monday.

S: Yea. But the stuff for the negotiations. They are making an announcement that we are starting negotiations.

K: That's fine.

S: And with that I think I can generate support.

K: Look, I have

S: We are in trouble on that. The Mehone Committee is taking a very tough attitude on it and they have been willing to go with a \$200 million increase and that's all and that leaves us short of what we need let alone short of what we asked for.

K: What did we ask for?

S: I am going to try to get Mehone off that and get Stennis to weigh in. But it is very helpful to me if I can say well look fellows we are trying to adjust our problem in SEA where we have got excess resources we are going to reduce them as we plan to do in Thailand, but on the other hand on the Vietnamese side, because we have taken our forces out we need additional money to support the Vietnamese.

K: Absolutely, you can do that. And I will strongly back. And if you want me to call Mehong I'll do it.

S: No, I don't think that is necessary. I may call you in at a later date. Now the other thing is that John Stennis and some others have taken a very tough attitude on Diego Garcia.

K: Stennis I talked to him the other day and he told me he was going to come around.

S: OK. That one is going to be very tricky to put through.

K: The thing they are all having trouble with is why it has to be in the supplemental.

S: The answer to that is quite clear. Because we want to get an additional 6 month head start prior to the time they reopen the Canal.

K: Yea. Well

S: OK, Henry.

K: Well, OK, Jim and I'll be in close touch.

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S: Have a good trip and I think that there is some possibilities if you think about it of holding up the option on MBFR or SALT and that you want to have some movement on one or the other. I'm not sure how they feel about MBFR, but some ways that may be a more promising area and shows a sense of diplomatic momentous.

K: Well, I'm not dying to get you know to ram SALT through. Let's see what happens.

S: Yea:

K: Do you think Zumwalt wants me to raise home porting in Odessa? I think that is a more reliable place to homeport than is Athens.
OK Jim.

S: OK

K: Bye

S: Bye, Bye.

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