

TelCon
Sec. Laird/Mr. Kissinger
4:00pm, Jan. 3, 1973

K: Hello.

L: Hello.

K: Mr. Secretary.

L: How are you.

K: Okay. Happy New Year to you.

L: Happy New Year to you. I've seen pictures of you on the beach, and--

K: But you couldn't have, I was on the desert.

L: Well, I didn't see anything with you with any girls, so I can't--

K: Well, they told me not to be photographed with girls, so I got myself photographed with a man, now we can a new list of stories now.

L: Henry, what I want to talk to you about is the -- all these God damned stories on the bombing that are coming out are all negative. Now I think we should let Saigon brief positively on our targeting. That doesn't affect your negotiations, does it?

K: No, but it just gets the stories straight.

L: We can't do it here. All these people running back in the United States, all they are talking about is hospitals and we kept getting pressures about hospitals and schools, now that isn't what our targets were and we've got a good story we can tell on military targets that were hit.

K: Let me raise it with the President.

L: You know, I just hate to be on the defensive all the time about all these lousy stories about these left wing Joan Baez and the rest of them. Down there and the press over here is just hitting us all the time on lousy targets, we can't talk about good ones.

K: Let me talk about it to the President.

L: You follow me though don't you Henry.

K: Very well.



L: And it would be out of Saigon in a positive story on the use of air power rather than all this negative crap.

K: I'll talk to the President this afternoon.

L: All right.

K: How have you been?

L: I'm fine.

K: You know, we have a meeting at 10:00 tomorrow with the President.

L: What's that meeting about, Henry.

K: Oh, just to bring us all up to date on Vietnam prior to the negotiations starting up. No big decisions, just a general discussion.

L: Very good.

K: You might in fact talk for a few minutes on the bombing targets.

L: Well I really think that we are going to get--

K: I think he might like to hear that, why don't I suggest it to him.

L: All right. But I do think that we can't be on the defensive all the time on this thing right now because they are running with us on TV every night and it's because we don't put out anything of a positive nature.

K: Let me talk to the President, I think it can be done.

L: All ;right.

K: Good, Mel, Nice to talk.

L: Fine.