



SF 257

RELEASE IN PART B6

Telcon
Secretary Kissinger
Adam Walinsky
6/17/75; 12:55 p.m.

K: Hello.

W: Hello, Henry.

K: Adam, how are you?

W: As you might guess, more than somewhat dismayed.

K: By the assassination stories?

W: Yes.

K: Well, I saw your comment.

W: Yeah, and I must say, I mean the latest is just too much.

K: Uh, I haven't . . . you mean the one in the TIMES today?

W: That's right.

K: I have not yet read it. I had a call from Mac Bundy this morning and I have just been in to see the President to express my own dismay about this. Uh, I do not know these documents. I have not read them. It is being handled here by the Counsel's Office and I have stayed out of it because -- first of all, I am totally out of sympathy with the effort. I think it is a disgrace to investigate a President fifteen years after the event for actions that were clearly taken in his conception of the national interest. It isn't a Watergate thing. There wasn't anything in it for him. When the context cannot be recreated and when it isn't clear who did what to whom. So I think the whole effort is totally wrong.

W: Well there is more than that now. I mean -- I have to tell you that the thing has gone so crazy. I talked to the NY TIMES this morning. I mean you should know this, Henry, that not only are they telling the TIMES what they had in the paper today, which is a clear insinuation that this stuff was approved by the President. I want you to know that the TIMES guy said to me, look, he said, we are being very responsible. We are not printing everything they are telling us.

K: Now, have you any idea who is . . .

W: Let me just go on because you must hear what they are being told. They were told that these discussions include such items as a discussion



- 2 -

of whether public opinion could be flamed against Castro by arranging the assassination of American Governors.

K: Well, I uh . . .

W: That is madness.

K: Well, Adam, I have not seen any of the documents. I cannot believe that this is true.

W: Of course it isn't.

K: I cannot believe that the documents is true; that that documents exists;

W: Of course it doesn't.

K: And I would consider it insane and outrageously irresponsible to release anything like this to the press. But can you find out for me who these people are who are talking.

W: Well I have heard the name of Hartmann.

K: Well, that's the one they always mention but he ought not/have access to of these things.

W: Well, I am only telling you what -- that name that floats around the TIMES.

K: Hartmann.

W: Yep.

K: Well, look, I am going to see the President this afternoon again. During the Nixon Administration I repeatedly refused to participate in producing any documents on the Diem period because I am totally -- I think it is outrageous for one President to investigate his predecessors unless there is some personal accusation. I am -- I mean accusation of some personal turpitude not on national effort. Secondly, these things taken out of context -- uh, when you have intelligence agents who are basically living in a different world anyway -- I am totally out of sympathy with this. I don't know what can be done . . .

W: At this point you are going to have to release those minutes, I think. You cannot have . . . I mean charges have been made . . .

K: Well, look, let me -- Adam, before you demand it too ^{insistently} ~~insistently~~, let me . . .



- 3 -

W: Yeah . . .

K: Let me know spend this evening reviewing what exists. I have not seen it. So that I can give you my judgment of what impression it would create. I just don't think -- I just don't know what exists. I have not seen it.

W: Well, all I know is based upon conversations that I have had with Bundy with Goodwin with others who were there and my judgment of the men . . . I think that there are perhaps one or two things in there that will be somewhat embarrassing to a few people -- I mean Bob McNamara is going to be embarrassed because he said a silly thing once.

K: But you know it makes a hell of a lot of difference whether you say it -- something when it is an action program.

Bob

W: But that's all. There was no action program. ~~That~~ wasn't there so he is going to be embarrassed but he can take that -- he can live with it.

said

K: Look, I am basically -- I will tell you, I am opposed -- I/this to Mac this morning -- I am opposed to releasing NSC documents, because all it takes now is for somebody to make a charge -- countercharge -- and the next thing you know all the NSC documents are going to be out.

W: Well, Henry, unless there is a complete retraction from those sources I don't see what else -- listen, I am going to put something -- I mean just think about the national purpose for a while. You know the United States does not have an enormous number of assets abroad in the world anymore. One of the few assets that we have it seems to me is the fact that there is still ~~pl~~ pictures of those individuals in a few million houses.

K: I couldn't agree with you more. I am in total agreement with you. I think it is a moral outrage.

W: What I am saying, Henry, while I agree with you and I understand your sentiments and I _____ them but what I am saying is that at this point with those accusations having been made and having been made and having been by White Housesources -- nobody else saw those documents.

K: Well, Adam, let me do the following: First of all let me look at these documents. Secondly, let me -- when I talked with the President he said he would see to it that a denial would be published tomorrow. Now, I have had -- I am having my Deputy check on whether -- the President's understanding of what these people are going to do ~~is~~ in fact ~~is~~ correct and it's going to happen. If they publish a retraction tomorrow that would be a good way of handling it.



- 4 -

W: Yes, that would be.

K: If they do not, then let's talk again. My understanding from the President was and I just five minutes ago talked to him about this. He said -- because I made substantially the point you just made -- he said he would see to it that a retraction gets published and what I want to do is follow this up and talk to the person who would have to publish a retraction which would have to be the Counsel who has the documents.

W: That's right.

K: You see, I don't know who did the leaking. You can't ask the leaker to do the retraction. So, may I get in touch with you no later than first thing in the morning?

W: Absolutely. Of course.

K: And let you know where we stand.

W: All right. Shall I give your girl my home number as well in case she wants to reach me then.

K: Yeah. What is your number?

W: My home number is

B6

K: Well, I will probably call you during the course of the evening.

W: V^ury good.

K: I have to work on a speech tonight so it may be fairly late.

W: That's fine.

K: Good. I will call you tonight.

W: Thank you, Henry.

K: Right, Adam.

W: Bye-bye.