

X204

*

TELECON
 President Ford/The Secretary
 November 1, 1975
 Time: 6:05 p.m.

RELEASE IN FULL

- K: Hello, Mr. President.
- F: Hello, Henry. How are you?
- K: Mr. President, two things happened this afternoon I thought you should know about. One of them might affect your timing certain decisions. First one is Dan Schorr is going with ~~Curtis~~ ^{Kurdish} story tonight on CBS. He said he got it from the Pike Committee. I think we should shut off any classified information to these Committees.
- F: That is just terrible, Henry. How much will he say?
- K: Enough to trigger the rest. ...done by Nixon, the Shah and me over opposition of the State Department and CIA whereby thousands of people were killed. This was going on since 1961.
- F: You are probably right on that.
- K: If the Russians had the head of CIA working for them for the last 10 years, they couldn't have gotten the information these Committees are putting out. Every covert operation is out in the open.
- F: My quick reaction -- we should stop it. Is he going to say he got it from the Committee?
- K: Yes, Committee sources. There is no other place he could have gotten it.
- F: If he says that, that is the best evidence we have for not giving information to them.
- K: They want to get out of the Boyatt thing.
- F: They are losers on that. I saw all three newscasts at lunch today and they were distinct losers on the Boyatt matter.
- K: The second thing, Mr. President, is that Newsweek has the story of my losing the assistant position. They have been told all week from the Rumsfeld/Marsh level. I am giving you the facts: that you are tired of me; that you overruled me on Law of the Sea; that SALT is screwed up; on the low profile of the China trip; and my adding the Philippines and Indonesia on my return and SALT and that you, therefore, have asked me to give up my second hat. I said to him that none of these complaints have been voiced to me by either the White House or the President. He said: then we will print a flat denial that any change imminent. I said: yes. But then they said it would be



-2-

very hard on you and me that I deny it and then it turns out to be true.

I called van Voorst back two hours later and said: you have context wrong and basic facts wrong, but I can't let you print my denial.

- F: About half an hour ago Don stopped by and said that DeFrank was trying to contact him and then Bill Greener (sp) said DeFrank had called him. I told Don not to talk to him PERIOD. I told him to tell Bill Greener that the only person who could answer in good authority was the President and he should say nothing more PERIOD.
- K: I am afraid there will be a big story on Monday and the question is what will the various departments and buildings say. I am relaxed about it.
- F: Are we on a secure phone?
- K: It goes through the White House switchboard.
- F: In light of what Greener said and what Don came in and told me when I told him not to talk to anybody...
- K: And Joe Kraft has the story. He told Eagleburger.
- F: Here is what I think. The longer we delay the worse it will be. I am convinced we should make the announcement on Monday. Then we don't get people denying this and denying that. I will have press conference on Monday. This is what is important. I can tell Sadat personally this tomorrow so he knows ahead of anybody authentically.
- K: The whole story has been printed by the White House people today. Nobody thinks Schlesinger is me. It is pointed at desperate attempt to reduce my power, which is alright with me.
- F: I think Schlesinger move is one that when we get this whole package together -- I will make the announcement on Monday night at 7:30 press conference. I think the idea of Colby going to NATO. The more I thought the better I think it is.
- K: You can't get an answer from Bush?
- F: I think I was going to talk to you about that tomorrow. I will have a secure phone in Jacksonville. Can I call him?
- K: No, not on a secure phone. I don't think we have a secure phone to Peking. No, we don't.



-3-

F: We don't have one.

K: Which is one reason I could send him a message tonight.

F: Can you send him a secure message?

K: I probably have the securest communications in town since the CIA.

F: Why don't you go ahead with that. Will you?

There is one other thing I was going to talk to you about on the plane. We had a blow with the David Packard resignation. Between you and me, Dave just didn't have the time to do it. We want to keep him in as Honorary Chairman. The suggestion was made that why don't I ask Eliot Richardson to come back to take it over. What would your reaction be to that?

K: He is basically a skunk.

F: With Nelson making this other announcement.

K: When is that happening?

F: I don't think that can be kept with all the leaks going on. I was going to call Nelson and ask him to see me first thing Monday and make the announcement at that time.

K: On Monday?

F: And get the whole thing laid out on Monday.

K: Alright.

F: Do we have a secure phone to London?

K: Yes, I am practically certain. I will have to check.

F: If you could check that. I will be home tonight. Will you proceed with George?

K: I will check with Brent which ever is the most private channel. If we have one at the White House, I will send from that channel. If not, I will send it from the State Department in the Roger Channel.

F: The most secure one. I haven't talked to Bill, you see. I wanted to get Nelson in Monday, Schlesinger in Monday, Colby in Monday, the first thing.