



Telecon
Ron Ziegler
6/1/70 9:35 a.m.

Z: How's Jill?

K: Whom do you mean?

Z: St. John.

K: I don't know whom you mean.

Z: Okay, then how's Faye Dunaway? You can't do much in my part of the country without my finding out about it. Why don't you let the Zieg in on it.

K: What the Zieg doesn't understand is that the thing is self-perpetuating. Once the thing has gotten started they're such publicity hounds it keeps itself going.

Z: I'm going to leak it.

K: That's what I was hoping you'd do. That's what I'm doing it for. Two things: The President called last night and thought I should stop in at that briefing.

Z: I think that would be very wrong.

K: For once I agree with you. He thought that Jerry did wrong.

Z: It's playing fine.

K: I agree. There's no way I could get out without saying something substantive or else lying.

R: So I'm just going to say that the President was encouraged by the report, and that this week we's going to give a progress report on Cambodia, and more importantly, on Vietnamization.

K: Don't say "more importantly." Just say a progress report on Cambodia and Vietnamization.

Z: I'll say a progress report, and he will also report at the conclusion of the operation on June 30.

K: Just say he will report at the conclusion of the operation.

Z: Yes, but the conclusion of the operation will be on June 30. And he will report at the conclusion.

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K: Or you could say our operation concludes on June 30, but we may hold it until the Vietnamese get out around August 1.

Z: That would get a headline.

K: I've got some other good news for you--I'm resigning.

Z: You wouldn't leave your President. I have occasionally been upset with you Henry, but I've never been jealous of you ~~bezzzupse~~ until now. And Jill St. John and Faye Dunaway in one weekend--that makes me jealous.

K: Okay, don't let me finish telling you my news.

Z: I'm ready.

K: There is a story out of Bangkok where the Thai Prime Minister said we are going to equip Thai volunteers for Cambodia.

Z: Yes.

K: You've seen the story?

Z: Yes.

K: How are you going to handle it?

Z: I'm waiting for the pearls of wisdom.

K: Well, the problem is, it's essentially true, but we don't want to admit it. There's enough truth in it that a flat denial could be damaging.

Z: I can say I don't have any details on a play like that but anything regarding the Thai government troops . . .

K: Should come out of Bangkok.

Z: Yes.

K: I understand your speech was a great success.

Z: It went all right.

K: Any demonstrators?

Z: None. One member of the faculty got down on his hands and knees and wrote peace signs on the sidewalk. Four of the students wore peace medallions, but that's all. No hostility. It was amazing

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