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TELECON Mr. Habib/Secretary Kissinger August 24, 1976 Time: 8:34 p.m.

RELEASED IN PART B6

K: Did you see our friends today?

H: Yes. I did.

1300

K: What did they say?

H: They don't interfere with other peoples affairs. Then they said they invited him in 1974 and reextended the invitation and they naturally had a right to invite people they wanted. This was all in terms of creating a good relationship. That is why they invited him -- for good relations. I referred to the points and they said of course they would do everything that was appropriate to see the guests were well treated. I said something to the effect that while they had a right to invite anyone they wished they must remember this is an election year and these people had a bias and if they were talking about appropriate treatment there was a question of how this information would be used.

K: This was stated as a personal view?

H: Yes. There was no one in the room with me and I said this was my personal view. Then I rebutted and he rebutted. I said we have noted your responses and we will see how this comes out. Quite friendly -- good social chit-chat before hand and afterwards.

K; They will understand?

H: I think the message is loud and clear.

K: It had to be done. Your formal dealings in Seoul -- well, the whole press is full of the U.S. backdown.

H: That is our cute friends playing games. I think we have to send Snieder in. I think a little word is enough.

K: I want him not to say how can you get U.S. support -- well when we went in with B-52's...

H: I went thorugh that whole thing with their Ambassador today. We will get Snieder in...

K: And quietly read the note we sent to the North Koreans. This is after Park told us three times not to do anything but cut the tree down.

H: Once he saw the North Korean's were leary he wanted you to do something more. Those are tough bastards.

K: I wanted to do more.

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H: Of course. But we are not going to tell them that.

K: Will you tell them we are outraged.

H: I spoke that way to the Ambassador but I don't know whether our Ambassador will speak that way to Park.

K: You tell him doesn't anyone do what they are told any more.

H: Everyone sucks up to the guy whose country they are in. Let's see if we can toughen this one.

K: Will you send one message out there and say we are extremely annoyed by this press campaign.

H: Alright.

K: Considering that they threatened caution to begin with.

H: And their second stage of counsel was to seek assurances.

K: Can you make that clear.

H: Yes. I will get it out tonight.

K: And tell Snieder we expect him to be firm.

H: Yes.

K: You sound enthusiastic.

H: He will do it if he gets a start. He is not one of my favorite Ambassadors. He may be one of yours.

K: Only because I fired him off the NSC staff.

H: You feel you have to support people you have fired?

K: No, no. You just get that out.

H: O.K. Tonight.

K: Thank you.

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