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TELECON

Attorney General Levi/Secretary Kissinger

March 13, 1976

Time: 4:13 p. m.

K: About our conversation yesterday....

L: Yes.

K: We have now determined that Saddock took part in the press conference. We know the answers to questions -- he volunteered answers. I talked to Williams who is of the view that we should go to court to make my case. And say there are no inconsistencies. The lawyers are trying to create a false impression of conflict and then we should ask for a dismissal. I wonder whether whoever tries the case can talk to Williams about this. I am not prepared to keep taking this. They have been doing this for months.

L: I think Williams is wrong.

K: You thought I was wrong with Boyatt too.

L: I thought it worked out well.

K: Once you accepted my strategy your advice was brilliant. Once you accept that we have to fight, I am sure you will be able to work this out.

L: It -- they won't dismiss the case. It is fine for Williams to act as if we are defending a murder charge. I will talk to Todder about it and get back to you. I think one can file a motion that these lawyers be admonished and not do this again.

K: The difference between me and the Justice Department is you are looking at the outcome of the case but I have to conduct foreign policy being every three weeks accused of lying.

L: I am looking at that too. I don't think it will help to have a Secretary of State ask for a case to be postponed and it being turned down.

K: How about having it dismissed?

L: They won't do that.

K: I want to have on record: a) that there are no inconsistencies; and b) that they are not trying a case but engaging in a publicity campaign.

L: I understand.



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K: What remedy I get after that is secondary to me.

L: I have to worry about how the Secretary of State looks also. I don't want you to ask for things that will be turned down.

K: Right now the Secretary of State is being accused of lying, perjury, conflicts are being printed in the newspapers. I had a senior official of the Russian Embassy ask me whether my effectiveness was being damaged the other day.

L: Your effectiveness isn't being hurt and your energy is being increased by it.

K: My philosophy is when in doubt attack.

L: I know that. I will give you a door that you can kick open any day you please. I will get back to you.

K: O.K. Fine.