

TELECON
The President

(Brought in 3/29/71) Taped March 28, 1971
(Starts in mid conversation)

By W NARA, Date 5/26 k

K: And, that just doesn't happen when adequate precautions are taken. It was in the Danang area so it wasn't related to what was going on in Laos, in fact that's the sort of thing that would have happened to a much more intense degree if Laos had not taken place.

P: Well the main thing is how to handle the P.R. on it. Now how is it going to be handled? Going to put out a big story about it or are we or

K: No, no not from here.

P: Or from there or anyplace else. I mean there's no reason to . . .

K: Let me check and let me make sure.

P: Yeah, just tell them to handle it in a routine way . . . Seems to me amazing that they could allow that sort of thing to happen. I wonder if . . . I think you're right. I think Abrams probably having a hell of a time keeping the boys up in good shape at this point.

K: That may be one of the problems.

P: On the alert and everything. They figure they're all out . . .

K: That's right, that's right. That's one of the problems. We've had a bleeding cable from our Consul in Dacca who wants us to put out a statement condemning what the West Pakistanis are doing. But of course we won't consider it.

P: Oh for Christ's sake.

K: Well, he's just one of these pansies.

P: And he says 'condemning them?'

K: Yeah, for genocide.

P: Well, now remove him. I want him out of the job. You understand. You get that over to . . . Who's in charge of that one? That's Sisco.

K: Right.

P: That man's to be out of there. That kind of a fellow with that

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kind of lack of balance and so forth . . . He's obviously in there joining one side or the other. He's supposed to stay out of this god-damned war.

K: That's right. If we do that we're going to have anti-American riots in West Pakistan.

P: That's right. I don't want that kind of fellow there and I want his background checked immediately. I want to know who he is and so forth. Then kick him the hell out of there.

K: Right.

P: Move him some place else.

K: Right.

P: Isn't that awful. Jesus Christ, I mean I wouldn't put out a statement praising it, but we're not going to condemn it either.

K: No matter what we think of . . . Even if we didn't have that relationship with Yahya, this is just not . . . there's nothing we can say that isn't going to get us more trouble than it's worth, for either side.

P: That's right. Well, boy! Isn't that something. Shows you what those career guys would have us do virtually every time. You know, they get over there, they get involved . . .

K: Exactly.

P: Par for the course. Nobody here in Sisco's . . . none of these people want . . .

K: No, there was a little thought of it two weeks ago but we had a meeting of the WSAG then, we had one on Friday just before we left and everyone in Washington is postured correctly. They all understand that you don't want to say anything and they all agree that we shouldn't say anything.

P: Okay.

K: Right, Mr. President.