

By <u>KLV</u>	NASA Date <u>5/13/01</u>
By <u>MW</u> NARA Date <u>05/28/01</u>	

TELCON

Barbara Walters/Henry Kissinger

6/14/72 1:55 p.m.

BW: What a nice surprise. I have been so absolutely exhausted.

HAK: I am getting there.

BW: Tomorrow you leave

HAK: No tonight--I am not sure. What are you doing?

BW: Last week I was in California, where we were covering the primary

HAK: Yeh, I saw you. Somebody told me you were on vacation.

BW: I was, I took a few days off after that and went to the Beverly Hills pool

HAK: So now you are back?

BW: I am back in NY. As a matter of fact we were just talking about you last night because I was with Danny Kaye and he said, "What I have to do is cook Chinese food for Henry Kissinger". And I said I am sure that is just what he is waiting for when he comes home.

HAK: Is he going to be on the West Coast?

BW: He was here and is going back today.

HAK: I'll be out there the first week of July. and the second.

BW: I'll be out there the third week of July--a week after the Democratic convention.

HAK: I'll be back.

BW: I'm going out to do a special and would go out there immediately following the convention.

HAK: If I am still out there early that week, which I might be, will you try to find me.

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BW: I will be at the Beverly Hills Hotel. I will definitely be there

HAK: Call the Western White House. Barbara, I wanted your advice on something having to do with television. Don't know whether I ever told you about the nightmarish girl

BW: I hear the book goes on sale on Monday. I thought that's what you were calling about--I had her cancelled. When I went off to California, Jean Salid (?) gave me an advance paperback, and I thought it was just the worst piece of crap I've ever read.

HAK: It is totally outrageous

BW: I read it and I thought, you didn't kiss her, you didn't touch her--you were as nice to her as you are to me or any reporter

HAK: I am a hell of a lot nicer --I like you.

BW: If anyone reads the book they will realize how absurd and ridiculous it is. What troubles me about it is that a lot of people are going to bother to read and will get all this kind of publicity. But we cancelled out totally.

HAK: I am wondering what you recommend I do because this--you know if you wrote a book like this, ~~it~~ would have 50 times the reasons than she did. You I genuinely like. Her, after the first meeting--you know she is intelligent--she just turned into a nightmare.

BW: Our show which has more dignity--essentially the book came last night--it's in paperback as you know, so I knew she was going to be on, so I called Stuart _____ today and said listen, if you put her on am I supposed to be interviewing her--he said yes. I said I can't interview her without saying that this is the worst piece of foolish trash and it is obvious, even from her book that after the first meeting you didn't answer calls--you know I'd either say this on the air or there is no reason to have her around. He said well could we talk to her about what Henry Kissinger is like. I just called Stuart back and said we have cancelled her out indefinitely. But I am sure they will put her on Carson and Cavett and so forth.

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HAK: Can you image that I would said to anybody, I am your slave
--that I wouldn't do for somebody I liked.

BW: I am just trying to think as we talk--my first direction is always
ignore it

HAK: That's is what I have done up to now.

BW: But I just wonder in some things like this, whether you shouldn't
make a short and rather humorous and sad statement--not the way you
would talk about the glorious _____ when you do it humorously, but
kind of like she is kind of a nut

HAK: The Clifford Irving of Henry Kissinger

BW: I wouldn't do that--anything you do on that score makes the
book more seem interesting --any kind of statement you give out
gives credence to Kissinger's denial of whatever--I almost think
the kind of thing you should say is I feel very sorry for Ms. Hunabelle
--I am sad that what was one of the many interviews should have
produced such an emotional experience in her. I would be flattered
if I were not so disturbed for this poor, sick lady--in that vein--
making her pathetic rather than interesting. There are various ways
we could do it--one thing we could do if you wanted--when I was talking
to Stuart this morning I said the only thing that I did feel that I would do
on this book is a sort of by-line piece because it reminds me of the fan
magazine stories on Jackie Kennedy which I was reading in the beauty
parlor--but on this headline it says "Divorce, divorce Onassis divorce,
Jackie swears to go to court and tell the truth" and it turns out to be
Onassis' daughter is getting divorced--seems to be the same thing

HAK: You don't find a response from me anywhere in there.

BW: If you wanted, I could do this kind of a thing and say that we
--various reporters have talked with you about and your feeling is one
mostly pity for Ms. Hunabelle, you feel embarrassed by it--what you
feel mostly is sadness that a routine interview should have produced
such a senatic response.

HAK: It is up to you; that might not be bad. That isn't why I called
you.

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BW: I know that's not why you called me and it is something that I had thought of doing anything, and also if you had called me for that I would call you if I needed a favor.

HAK: Barbara, I asked you for your advice. I didn't ask you to do anything.

BW: Let me do it that way--if anyone does call you about it who seems important, I would say I hardly know her, and am sad that this lady seems to make so much of it, I've read the book and you can see that there is nothing to it--but I feel very sorry for her--I would treat it that way--and make no statement. If someone directly asks you. Do it serious, not humorously. I am sad that she has blown it up to such an emotional experience and I offer her my regrets. It is too bad you have to be plagued with it--it is a terrible piece of crap.

HAK: I haven't read the English version yet.

BW: All she talks about is what a wonderful person she is, how tough it was to film this ~~is~~ with her one little camera and how you avoided her at every turn--

HAK: You know I am not exactly unattracted by women, but I found her physically repulsive--she was so persistent.

BW: She looks sort of unattractive in the picture with you and Nixon.

HAK: She is aggressive and I had to change my phone number.

BW: I said to Stuart this morning that what she is so upset about is that you came to Paris and took a very nice girl from CBS and for this she about committed suicide. It's just gossip, I said to Stuart and I won't do the interview/ for the book.

HAK: I have never taken her out.

BW: That is also clear in the book--that you never took her out, that you never answered letters, that you never returned phone calls, however, if she goes on the shows like Carson and Cavett--they haven't read the book--my advice not to say anything and if asked treat her as you would a sick child.

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HAK: She will certainly go on Carson and Cavett

BW: I can find out for you. But also I am not terribly sure other shows won't turn her down as ours did. Realistically, she will probably be doing a lot of it--she came over here just to do it. You can also have one line, "of course, you can sympathize for her, because you know she is going to make a great deal of money," inferring that it is a way of hooking into the reputation.

HAK: Barbara, can I take you to lunch or dinner sometime?

BW: I'd love to see you.

HAK: Are you coming down.

BW: I have been terribly proud of you to hear and see what things you have done. Where do you go from here?

HAK: Back to Harvard.

BW: No, you'll never go back to Harvard.

HAK: But I don't know what I am going to do.

BW: You going to be in charge of a large company.

HAK: No, I'm really only good at doing things I believe in. I drive everyone around me crazy, but I get it done.

BW: How is Nancy?

HAK: She is fine.

BW: This time at least, I don't have to worry about your shopping do I. Charlotte told me she told you that story. She was really cute about it. After this was over--this tiny group of ladies, and I arrived late, but when I finished, a woman came up to me and said Barbara my name is Ann Cox and I want to thank you for what you said about opening the door to peace or some such thing, and I said nothing about the Nixon's at all, and I went home and went to bed that night and woke up, and said Oh my God, Ann Cox and realized who it was--do you know who it is.

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HAK: No

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BW: Tricia's mother-in-law.

HAK: And she's such an awful woman.

BW: She was a nice grey-haired looking lady and she was sitting next to Gab Talley-- I had talked about really light things--shopping in the stores--nothing that was important.

HAK: We missed you in Moscow.

BW: I missed being there--except in a way it was good I wasn't there. The week after I was asked to come and speak ~~at the~~ at Harvard and John Fairbank was there, and it was exciting for me. Don't be concerned about this, we'll do something next week--just treat it as though she is making a lot of money off you because that is exactly what it is. I'll come down and have lunch one day when you return.

HAK: Would you do that?