

TELCON

The President

Mr. Kissinger

3-17-69 1:20 PM

President asked whether that thing was about done now. K said another hour it will start. Pres said good. K said it is all in order - he checked it all through again this morning. President said what pleases him is that he is glad the fellow agreed to private talks right away. President thinks the two are closely related. K agreed. Pres said this was token of our intent and they think we really mean business. Otherwise, they were about to conclude that we were being pressured and starting again on same ~~cycle~~ cycle that we had gone through before. K said they were getting started for some arm twisting and it was not necessary at all. Pres said good deal - pretty hard ~~for~~ for them not to talk. K said he would keep him posted - he does not think anything will happen for another two hours.

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