

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**Tape Subject Log***(rev. 10/06)*

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger in the Oval Office between 12:52 pm and 1:04 pm on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-15

Kissinger: The best asset that, that Hanoi has had is the fact that you were not even given the minimum one year that a President should have. They started rioting in June. They kept it up through October. The first year you had to break it. Then when it was quiet enough, every six months they have had demonstrations.

President: Isn't that interesting? They had one, of course, Cambodia w-, the Cambodia demonstrations would have come off whether Cambodia had --

Kissinger: Mr. President --

President: -- been invaded or not. They were already set up.

Kissinger: -- just as these would have. All the essential elements of these: the --

President: [Unintelligible].

Kissinger: -- People's Peace Treaty, the, uh, attack on the bombing, all of this was being drowned away even without Laos. Now I admit Laos created the malaise.

President: Crap! Laos did not create, it did not really charge up the attack so much as it discouraged our own people.

Kissinger: That=s right.

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Conv. No. 487-15 (cont.)

President: Let=s face it, that=s what --

Kissinger: That is right.

President: -- [unintelligible], now that, now that [unintelligible].

Kissinger: Two months later they would have, they would have got something going.

President: But as far as our own people are concerned, whether we can keep them, frankly, bucked up until we see it through, uh, just remains to be the, the great open question. I think maybe we can. Well, at least we will try; we're gonna try to do it; we're gonna try to see it through; we're gonna be as tough as hell, and, uh, [unintelligible] the best. That's all.