

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Part of a conversation among President Nixon, Thomas H. Moorer, David Packard, and Alexander M. Haig, Jr. in the Oval Office between 11:38 am and 12:03 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-14

Packard: Well, we're getting all of the troops out of the city.

President: Thank God! Hell, worked just swell. They've done a beautiful job.

Packard: [Unintelligible] gettin' a little worse.

President: What'd you do there?

Packard: [Unintelligible] and I have swept --.

President: I wonder if you would, uh, you would go, if you could say that, uh, express to them, you could say you were talking, that I asked ya first to say that handling such situations, I mean, is, i-i-is really in some ways more difficult than engaging in, in combat in a sense. This --

Packard: [Unintelligible].

President: -- to handle it with a, with a minimum amount of, uh, of, uh, amount of, uh, minimum amount of force, uh, with, with presence and, uh, uh, great skill and restraint 'n' yet firmness. Restraint 'n' firmness [unintelligible], uh --.

Packard: Be great to do that. I talked about it with these gentlemen [unintelligible].

President: Oh, absolutely. Well, they did a fine job here at home. Night 'n' days and, and

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the police did a good job, too. Police and the nation-, and the troops are 'n' the way those Marines popped in there. [Laughs] I read about them. Wish the --

Packard: We were --

President: -- army were half as good.

Packard: -- we were a little concerned.

President: They didn't tear the flags down, thank God, this time.

Unknown: Well, I think the type of government force simply [unintelligible] to do with [unintelligible].

Moorer: That's a big --.

President: Fact that they made enough [unintelligible].

Moorer: Yes, sir. That's always the way to do it --

President: Yeah.

Moorer: -- in advance.

President: Yeah.

Moorer: If you wait until the problem starts and then bring the forces in, you're just gonna have bloodshed.

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President: Sorta scared 'em off.

Moorer: Right.

President: [Unintelligible]. I'll tell you: don't let them get ya. I, the deputy has got the last trick. [Laughs] They stick a knife in your tire, get out and pop somebody. Try that.

Packard: I'm afraid that's just what we might do.

Moorer: That's right, that's right.

President: You'll get a --

Moorer: [Unintelligible].

President: -- Silver Star, a Silver Star.