

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 2/24)

Conversation No. 89-1

Date: February 2, 1972  
Time: 10:05 am - 12:16 pm  
Location: Cabinet Room

The President met with Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, William P. Rogers, Melvin R. Laird, General George A. Lincoln, John B. Connally, John N. Mitchell, Richard M. Helms, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Ellsworth F. Bunker, Henry A. Kissinger, General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., and Ronald L. Ziegler

[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

Taxes

New Jersey

Baltusrol

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[This segment was declassified on 02/28/2002.]

[National Security]

[089-001-w001]

[Duration: 1h 55m 22s]

Vietnam

-US policy

-Analysis

-Thomas H. Moorer

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[Previous National Security (B) withdrawal reviewed under MDR guidelines case number LPRN-T-MDR-2014-014. Segment declassified on 04/18/2019. Archivist: MAS]

[National Security]

[089-001-w001]

[Duration: 9m 14s]

Vietnam

-Military situation

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**

**Tape Subject Log**

*(rev. 2/24)*

- North Vietnamese activities
  - Cambodia and Laos
- The President's January 25, 1972 speech
  - North Vietnamese response
  - Politburo
- North Vietnamese goals
  - Political control of South Vietnam
  - Thomas H. Moorer briefing
  - Indochina
  - Means
    - Forthcoming military offensive throughout Indochina
  - South Vietnam
    - Armies of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos
  - US domestic opposition to President's Vietnam policies
  - Reduce impact of People's Republic of China [PRC] trip
- Military situation
  - South Vietnam
    - Central Highlands as target of North Vietnam
  - North Vietnam
    - Weaponry
    - Ho Chi Minh Trail movements in December 1971
    - Weaponry
  - Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]
    - Potential for forthcoming combat operations
    - Roads
  - Hanoi
    - Military movements
  - Laos
  - Military regions III and IV
  - Cambodia
    - North Vietnamese military divisions
    - Mekong Delta
  - South Vietnam
    - Lowlands
  - Viet Cong proclamation
    - Indication of North Vietnamese military goals
    - General uprising
  - Cambodia, Laos
    - Potential pressure from North Vietnam
  - South Vietnam
    - Forthcoming action in Western Highlands
- North Vietnam
  - Difficulties during 1971

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**

**Tape Subject Log**

*(rev. 2/24)*

- Recent flooding
- Morale
- Material resources
- Propaganda
  - Response to US and South Vietnam proposals
- Negotiations
  - Communists' actions
  - North Vietnamese intentions
  - Paris
    - January 27, 1972 meeting
  - Forthcoming North Vietnamese political and military activity in Indochina
  - Prospects
  - Propaganda
- North Vietnam
  - Antiwar sentiment
  - Pressure on the President
  - Politburo
    - Awaiting battlefield results

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Vietnam

- Military prospects
  - Sappers
  - Artillery
  - Possible South Vietnamese action
    - Nguyen Van Thieu's orders
  - Air power
    - B-52's, A-1's
    - C-130's
- Military situation
  - Thomas H. Moorer
  - Laos
    - G. McMurtrie Godley
    - North Vietnamese morale
    - Quan Chang [sp?]
    - Vang Pao
    - Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]
  - Cambodia
    - Previous military activity by government
      - Thailand
    - Highways, Mekong River

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 2/24)

- North Vietnamese military dispositions
  - Air strikes
- Air strikes
  - Roles of US, South Vietnam
  - Laos
  - Targeting
  - B-52's
  - F-4's
- Cambodia
  - South Vietnamese activity
- Relative strength of South and North Vietnam
  - Possible South Vietnamese activity
    - Nguyen Van Thieu
      - Operation Lam Son
      - Napoleon Bonaparte
- North Vietnamese military dispositions
  - Operation Lam Son
  - General [surname unintelligible]

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*[Previous National Security (B) withdrawal reviewed under MDR guidelines case number LPRN-T-MDR-2014-014. Segment declassified on 04/22/2019. Archivist: MAS]*

[National Security]

[089-001-w003]

[Duration: 49s]

Vietnam

- North Vietnamese military disposition
  - Infiltration
    - Numbers
  - 1968 Tet Offensive
    - Quality of US military intelligence
    - North Vietnamese element of surprise

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Vietnam

- North Vietnamese military disposition

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**

**Tape Subject Log**

*(rev. 2/24)*

- Air defenses
- Mikoyan-Gurevich [MIG]
  - Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
- Trucks
  - Interdiction
- Mikoyan-Gurevich [MIG]
  - US losses
    - B-52's
    - C-130's
  - Bases
  - US attacks
- Possibilities
  - Unknown general, Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., John S. McCain, Jr.
    - Pentagon
  - North Vietnamese
- Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]
  - US air strikes
- Possibilities
  - North Vietnamese
  - Cambodia
  - Allied response
    - Long Binh's [?] actions
  - US plans
    - Air authority for Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
      - Radar
      - Surface-to-Air Missile [SAM] sites
      - Airfields
      - Materiel and logistics
      - US capability
      - Materiel and logistics
      - Weather
    - Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]
  - The President's forthcoming trip to People's Republic of China [PRC]
  - Authority for military field commanders
  - US-South Vietnam relationship
  - Follow-up to North Vietnamese military action
    - Haiphong
      - The President's forthcoming trip to People's Republic of China [PRC]
  - South Vietnam's prospects
  - Melvin R. Laird's preparations
  - Authority for Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
    - The President's forthcoming trip to People's Republic of China [PRC]
  - US intelligence

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 2/24)

- Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]
- Air authority for Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
- Protective reaction

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[Previous National Security (B) withdrawal reviewed under MDR guidelines case number LPRN-T-MDR-2014-014. Segment declassified on 04/24/2019. Archivist: MAS]

[National Security]

[089-001-w004]

[Duration: 25s]

Vietnam

- Possibilities
  - Effect of post-Christmas air strikes
  - Casualties
  - US intelligence
    - Richard M. Helms
    - Effectiveness of strikes

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Vietnam

- Possibilities
  - Infiltration
    - B-52's
  - Air authority for Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
    - Spiro T. Agnew
  - B-52's
    - Disposition
    - Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. authority
- Casualties
- Possibilities
  - B-52's
  - Aircraft carriers
  - F-4's
  - Aircraft carriers
  - Tactical aircraft [TACAIR]
  - Public reaction to air strikes
- US military policy
  - Public reaction

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**

**Tape Subject Log**

*(rev. 2/24)*

- Military situation
  - Truck parks
  - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR] trucks
  - Sea operations
  - Possibilities
    - Views of Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. and William C. Westmoreland
- South Vietnamese morale
  - Ellsworth F. Bunker
  - William F. Buckley, Jr.'s article
  - Ellsworth F. Bunker's November 1971 talk with Hoang Xuan Lam
  - South Vietnamese generals
    - Unknown man's [Ellsworth F. Bunker?] talk with Nguyen Van Thieu
    - [First name unknown] Dzu [?]
    - [First name unknown] Trong [?]
    - Duong Van ("Big Minh") Minh
    - Nguyen Van Thieu
    - US military and economic aid
  - President's opponents in Congress
- Military capability compared with North Vietnam
  - US military and economic aid
    - J. William Fulbright, Michael J. ("Mike") Mansfield
    - Department of Defense [DOD]
    - Compared to Agency for International Development [AID]
- Military situation
  - Helicopter lift capability
  - Retention of trained personnel
  - North Vietnamese plans
    - Allied response
  - B-52's
  - F-4's
  - Tactical aircraft [TACAIR]
  - North Vietnamese plans
    - Possible outcome
  - US air strength
    - US public opinion
    - Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. discretionary authority
  - Targets
    - Timing
    - Weather
- Negotiations
  - North Vietnamese expectations
- President's policy
  - Cambodia, Laos

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 2/24)

- Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy
- Dwight D. Eisenhower and Korea
- 1972 election
  - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR]
  - Middle East
  - Europe
- US public opinion
- Military situations
  - North Vietnamese plans
    - Nguyen Van Thieu's response
      - Public credit
      - Ronald L. Ziegler

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Vietnam

- Public credit
  - Korea
  - World War I battle
  - Cambodia
    - Columbia Broadcasting System [CBS] Television broadcasts

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[This segment was declassified on 02/28/2002.]

[National Security]

[089-001-w002]

[Duration: 1m 56s]

Vietnam

- Public credit
  - North Vietnamese plans
    - South Vietnamese response
  - US military personnel in Thailand
  - Numbers

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[Previous archivists categorized this section as unintelligible. It has been rereviewed and released 08/21/2019.]



**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**

**Tape Subject Log**  
*(rev. 2/24)*

[Unintelligible]  
[089-001-w005]  
[Duration: 1m 30s]

General conversation

Upcoming meeting with the President

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[Recording ends while the conversation is in progress]

The President, *et al.* left at 12:16 pm