Conversation No. 159-1

Date: December 31 1972
Time: Unknown between 9:55 am and 11:17 am
Location: Camp David Study Table

The President talked with the Camp David operator.

[See Conversation No. 238-25]

Request for a call to Charles W. Colson

Conversation No. 159-2

Date: December 31, 1972
Time: 11:17 am - 11:47 am
Location: Camp David Study Table

The President talked with Charles W. Colson.

[See Conversation No. 238-26]

1972
- End of the year
- Review of the year

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[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

-Politics
- Accomplishments
- History
- 1972 campaign
- Press relations
Vietnam War
- US bombing of North Vietnam
- Press relations
  - New York Times article
    - Disagreement in administration
    - State Department
    - Defense Department
  - James B. (“Scottie”) Reston article [“Nixon and Kissinger”] in New York Times
    - Henry A. Kissinger’s position
      - Compared to the President’s position
        - Messages
        - Cessation of US bombing north of 20th Parallel
        - Timing
    - Kissinger’s relationship with the President
      - Kissinger’s possible resignation
        - Vietnam negotiations
          - Writing of record
            - Breakdown in talks
            - Effect on the President
    - Comments
      - Distortion
    - Reston
      - The President’s refusal to see
        - Interview with Chou En-Lai
    - Accuracy
    - Source
    - Kissinger
      - Marvin L. Kalb’s story
        - Colson’s conversation with Kissinger
    - Conversation with Kalb
      - Kissinger’s conversation with the President
        - Kalb’s congratulations
    - Ronald L. Ziegler
Conversation No. 159-2 (cont’d)

- John A. Scali
- Cessation north of 20th Parallel
  - Announcement
    - Colson’s conversation with Scali
  - Timing
- Public relations [PR]
  - International protests
  - Britain, France
  - International protests
    - Australia, Sweden
- Press relations
  - Scali’s view
  - Scali’s role
  - Helen Thomas
    - Gerald L. Warren’s press conference
      - “Peacenik”
  - Robert Pierpoint’s report
    - Scali
- Alleged US capitulation to North Vietnam
  - Credibility
    - Columbus, Ohio
- Motives for criticism
  - Washington, DC
  - 1972 election
    - Reston
      - “Preacher”
    - Scientists [American Association for the Advancement of Science]
    - George S. McGovernites
  - Interim before 1973 Inauguration
- Patrick J. Buchanan
  - 1972 election
    - Effect on establishment
- Kissinger
  - Conversations with Kalb, McGeorge Bundy
  - Conversation with the President
  - Harvard University
  - Reston
  - Telephone calls
Conversation No. 159-2 (cont’d)

-Check
  -Instruction for Colson
    -White House operator, switchboard
    -Reston
      -Palm Spring, California
-Reston article
  -Kissinger
    -Scali
      -Ziegler
    -Negotiations
      -Settlement agreement
-Investigation
  -Colson’s call to Kissinger
    -Sources
      -National Security Council [NSC]
-Scali’s view
-Negotiations
  -Breakdown
    -Possible leak of wire
      -Effect on Kissinger
    -Timing
  -Resumption
    -Le Duc Tho
      -Paris
  -Attacks on Hanoi, Haiphong
-National Security Council [NSC]
-Congressional relations
-The President’s second term
-Source
-The President’s policies
  -Accomplishments
  -Effect
    -Settlement agreement
    -North Vietnam
-PR
  -Colson’s view
    -Politicians
  -Polls
    -Albert E. Sindlinger
-Congressional relations
  -Samuel L. Devine
-Press relations
  -George Embrey article in *Columbus Dispatch*
    -“Nixon Ends Bombing; North Vietnam to Negotiate”
    -Devine
    -“[William B.] Saxbe Feels Political Shock”
  -Saxbe’s comments
    -Devine
    -Condition for support
    -Apology
    -Donald D. Clancy
  -Op-ed article
  -The President’s view
  -Cessation of US bombing north of 20th Parallel
    -Republicans
    -Percy
    -Hugh Scott
    -Dan Rather’s report
    -Hubert H. Humphrey’s statement
    -Press coverage
    -Carl B. Albert’s statement
    -Michael J. Mansfield
  -Possible investigation
    -Consultation with Congress
      -The President’s May 8, 1972 decision
  -Negotiations
  -Press relations
    -Cessation of US bombing north of 20th Parallel
      -Columbia Broadcasting Company [CBS]
      -Hanoi
      -Destruction
      -Announcement
  -Airplane losses
    -The President’s conversation with Adm. Thomas H. Moorer
      -B-52s
  -Press relations
    -Timing
    -Attacks on Hanoi
      -*Washington Post*
    -Demonstration
      -*New York Times*
Conversation No. 159-2 (cont’d)

- Article
  - Writing
  - Timing

-Negotiations
  - “Serious” tone
    - Pierpoint
    - Scali
      - Conversation with the President
      - Loss of B-52s
      - Kissinger’s press conference
      - US bombing north of the 20th Parallel
      - The President’s May 8, 1972 decision
    - Kissinger’s press conference
      - Kissinger’s concern
      - Self-image
      - Explanation of points
        - Ziegler
      - Explanation of points
        - Herbert G. Klein
          - 1972 campaign
            - John B. Connally
        - Scali
          - Compared to Klein
        - Ziegler
    - Kissinger
      - Reston article
        - Col. Richard T. Kennedy
        - Telephone calls
        - The President’s staff
      - Concern
        - Self-image
    - Call from Colson
      - Kissinger’s telephone calls
        - Palm Springs, California
      - Kalb
      - Reston article
        - Effect on negotiations
          - Le Duc Tho
        - Questions for Warren
        - Sources
Conversation No. 159-2 (cont’d)

-Return call to the President