Conversation No. 336-1

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:15 and 3:25 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with the White House operator.

[See Conversation No. 23-167]

Conversation No. 336-2

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:25 and 3:26 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

[See Conversation No. 23-168]

Conversation No. 336-3

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: Unknown after 3:26 and before 3:30 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.
Sanchez left at an unknown time before 3:30 pm.

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: Unknown after 3:26 and before 3:30 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.

President’s schedule
   - Camp David

-Departure time
Sanchez left at an unknown time before 3:30 pm.

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:26 and 3:30 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Rose Mary Woods.

President’s schedule
- Camp David trip
  - Helicopter
  - Time

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: 3:30 - 3:35 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Alexander P. Butterfield.

Camp David trip
  - Reading material

President’s schedule
- Duke Law School dinner
  - Number attending
  - Tables
  - Arrangements
    - Number attending
    - Seating
  - Drinks
    - Grand Hall
Conv. No. 336-6 (cont.)

Butterfield left at 3:35 pm.

Conversation No. 336-7

Date: May 5, 1972
Time: 3:36-3:46 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech
- Draft
  - Status
  - Completion time
- President’s work
  - Camp David
- US command structure
  - President’s meeting with Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
  - Melvin R. Laird

The President talked with Rose Mary Woods at an unknown time between 3:36 and 3:46 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-7A]
President’s schedule
- Camp David departure
- Time

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
- US command structure
  - Laird
  - The President’s view
  - Change
    - Commander-In-Chief, Pacific [CINCPAC]
      - Removal
    - Haig
  - Allied commander for Southeast Asia
    - Reasons
    - CINCPAC
    - Gen. Bruce Palmer
    - An Admiral
    - Gen. Frederick C. Weyand
      - [Forename unknown] Huxtable
    - Lt. Gen. William E. Dupuy
    - Gen. John W. Vogt
    - Haig
- Abrams
  - Ambassadorship
    - Spain
- Laird
  - Handling
  - Meeting with Kissinger
- Abrams
  - Possible Chief of Staff
  - Transfer from South Vietnam
  - Possible Chief of Staff
    - Haig
- Palmer
  - Kissinger’s view
- Dupuy
  - The President’s view
- A Navy Commander
  - Palmer
Conv. No. 336-7 (cont.)

- An Admiral
- Necessary qualifications
- Kissinger’s meeting with Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
  - Soviets
  - The President’s view
- Mutual pressures
  - Vietnam

Vietnam
  - US command
  - Changes
    - Laird
    - William P. Rogers
  - Camp David
  - Support from Laird and Rogers
  - President’s orders
    - The President’s view
      - Laird, Kissinger, and Adm. Thomas H. Moorer
    - Meeting with Rogers
    - Timing
  - Rogers
  - Forthcoming meeting with President

- Command structure change
  - President’s previous meeting with Haig
  - Reason for change
  - Abrams
    - Job transfer
  - Haig
  - Change
    - Palmer
  - Day
  - Announcement
    - President’s forthcoming speech
  - Laird
  - Palmer
  - Abrams

- Lines of communication
  - Palmer
  - Reports to the President
  - Laird

Kissinger’s schedule
Kissinger left at 3:46 pm.

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 1:15 - 2:30 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman.

[Discontinuities in the conversation appear in the original recording.]

President’s schedule
   - A meeting
   - Time

Vietnam
   - President’s policies
     - Veterans
       - Support
       - Opposition
     - President’s actions
     - John B. Connally
   - Blockade
     - Soviet summit
       - Possible cancellation
     - Separability
   - Risks
     - Edward M. Kennedy
     - Hue
   - Television coverage
     - Nature of reports
     - Henry A. Kissinger
     - Leonid I. Brezhnev

- Negotiations
  - Kissinger’s schedule
- Paris trip
- Collapse
- Soviet Summit
- Agreements
  - Timing of blockade
- Possible South Vietnam collapse
  - Melvin R. Laird
- Senate
  - J. William Fulbright, John C. Stennis
    - Advice
- Risks
  - South Vietnam collapse
    - Hue
  - South Vietnamese morale
- Blockade and mining of Haiphong
  - South Vietnamese morale
- Soviet summit
  - Timing
    - Possible South Vietnam collapse
  - Postponement
  - Timing
    - Negotiations
      - North Vietnam offensive
- Political risks
  - Kennedy
- Connally’s advice
- President’s goals
  - Peace

Abortion
- President’s letter to Terence Cardinal Cooke
  - John D. Ehrlichman
- Release
  - Circumstances
  - Review
    - Ehrlichman
    - John N. Mitchell
- Patrick J. Buchanan
- Haldeman’s advice
  - Mitchell
  - Ehrlichman
- Committee to Re-elect the President [CRP] role
Henry A. Kissinger entered at 1:35 pm.

German treaties
   -Call from Egon Bahr
   -Message from the President

Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
   -Forthcoming meeting with Kissinger
   -[David] Kenneth Rush

Vietnam
   -Blockade
   -Support
      -William P. Rogers
   -Timing
   -Rush

Kissinger talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 1:35 and 2:10 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-8A]

[See Conversation No. 24-3]
[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  -Soviet summit
  -Impact of blockade
    -Haldeman’s view

Kissinger talked with rush at an unknown time between 1:35 and 2:10 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-8B]

[See Conversation No. 24-4]

[End of telephone conversation]

Kissinger talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 1:35 and 2:10 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-8C]

Call To Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  -Blockade
    -Soviet summit
      -Possible cancellation
    -Risks
    -Hue collapse
      -Significance
    -South Vietnam collapse
      -Significance
        -Brezhnev
        -Summit agreements
        -World peace

-Timing
  -Kissinger’s schedule
    -Camp David
  -Soviet summit
  -German treaty
  -President’s decision
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Conv. No. 336-8 (cont.)

-Hue collapse
  -Timing
  -Significance
-Timing
  -President’s decision
  -The President’s view

An unknown person entered at an unknown time after 1:35 pm.

Delivery of lunch

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 2:10 pm.

Vietnam
  -Blockade
    -President’s decision
      -Timing
        -German Treaty
    -Failure to act
      -Meaning
        -The President’s view
  -Timing
    -Negotiations
  -Delay in decision
    -Possible South Vietnam collapse
    -Possible US defeat
      -Laird’s view
    -Soviet interpretation
  -North Vietnam offensive
    -Kissinger’s view
  -Hue
    -Objectives
  -Saigon
  -Soviet summit
    -Probability of military setbacks
      -Kissinger’s view
      -Kontum
    -Press reporting
      -The President’s view
      -Probability of Kontum collapse
  -Rogers
  -Connally’s advice
-US bargaining position
  -Public opinion
-Soviet Summit
  -US bombing
    -Hanoi
    -Haiphong
  -Cancellation possibility
-Bombing
  -Duration
    -Kissinger’s view
-South Vietnam collapse
  -Impact
  -Cancellation
    -Impact on forthcoming election
-Importance
  -Impact on US loss in Southeast Asia
  -Soviet prestige
-North Vietnam offensive
  -Tanks
    -Laird
    -Numbers and size
    -US tanks in South Vietnam
      -Laird
-Soviet summit
  -President’s decision to blockade
    -Air strikes
      -Hanoi, Haiphong
      -Risk of South Vietnam collapse
-Blockade and mining
  -Effect on North Vietnam strategy
  -Duration
  -Impact on North Vietnam
  -Impact on Soviets
  -Soviet summit
    -Possible cancellation
      -Likelihood
        -Kissinger’s view
        -Lyndon B. Johnson
-Air strikes
  -Connally’s advice
  -Effectiveness
-Blockade
- Effectiveness
  - South Vietnam survival
  - Comparison with bombing

- South Vietnam defeat
  - Consequences for US
    - Connally’s view
    - Rogers’s view
      - Haldeman’s view
    - Domestic public opinion
      - Haiphong
  - Consequences for the President
    - Forthcoming presidential campaign

- Blockade
  - President’s purpose
    - Prisoners of war [POWs]
      - Laird’s view
      - President’s forthcoming speech
    - Numbers
    - US withdrawal
  - Impact on North Vietnam
  - President’s final decision
    - President’s forthcoming speech

- Democratic Caucus
  - Kissinger briefing
    - President’s meeting with Michael J. Mansfield
      - Resolution to end the war
      - Delay
      - Soviet summit
    - President’s meeting with Congressional leaders
      - Fulbright, Stennis
      - Attendees
      - Fulbright
      - Allen J. Ellender
      - Timing
      - Attendees
    - Possible Congressional response
      - Kissinger’s view
      - Senate request

- Blockade decision
  - Haldeman’s opinion
  - Comparison with Cambodia
  - Briefing of Congressmen
-Rogers
-Laird
-Kissinger
-President’s speech
-Notification of Congressional leaders
-Mansfield
-Handling
-President’s manner
-Haldeman’s view
-Rogers
-Fulbright
-Comparison with President’s Cambodian announcement
-Timing
-Reasons
-Legal aspects of blockade
-Haig
-Rogers
-Attendees
-Appropriations Committee
-Armed Services Committee
-The President’s view
-Ellender
-Appropriations Committee
-Armed Services Committee
-George H. Mahon
-Telephone call
-A previous dinner attended by Kissinger
-Thomas W. Braden
-Frank F. Church
-Fulbright
-President’s terms
-The President’s view
-Blockade
-Ceasefire
-POWs
-US withdrawal
-Cabinet meeting
-Kissinger’s view
-Rogers
-President’s appearance
-Cabinet Room
-Television speech
Conv. No. 336-8 (cont.)

- President’s remarks
- Position
  - Support for the President’s decision to blockade
    - Haldeman’s view
- Rogers

Haldeman left at 2:10 pm.

Kissinger talked with Haig at 2:10 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-8D]

- Notification of blockade decision
  - Haldeman
  - Laird
  - Washington Special Action Group [WSAG]

[End of telephone conversation]

- President’s decision
  - Kissinger’s view
- President’s forthcoming speech
  - Soviet weapons
  - Deletions and additions
  - Draft
    - Rose Mary Woods
  - Civilian casualties
  - Delivery on television
    - Time
      - Comparison to John F. Kennedy’s Cuban missile crisis speech
  - Length
  - Announcement
- Escalation
  - US peace offers
    - Rejection by North Vietnam
    - Wording
- US troops in Vietnam
  - Numbers
  - Withdrawal
    - Number
    - Wording
- Soviet weapons
Conv. No. 336-8 (cont.)

- Delivery to North Vietnam
- US aid to South Vietnam
- Wording
- Implementation of blockade
- Communications
- Soviet aid to North Vietnam
- Surrender
  - Hanoi
  - Saigon
- Draft
  - Woods’s suggestion for the conclusion
- President’s letter to Brezhnev
  - Dobrynin
  - Kissinger’s review
    - Woods
    - Completion

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  - Military action
  - Ceasefire
    - Extent
    - Supervision
    - Extent
  - Outcome
    - Previous National Security Council [NSC] meeting
      - Outcome
        - Laird
          - Position
- Rogers
  - Support for the President
  - Public opinion
  - President’s decision

Kissinger left at 2:30 pm.

Conversation No. 336-9

Date: May 8, 1972
Conv. No. 336-8 (cont.)

Time: 2:33 - 2:35 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Ronald L. Ziegler.

Vietnam
- Blockade
- President’s speech
- Timing of the President’s decision

Ziegler left at 2:35 pm.

Conversation No. 336-10

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 2:35 and before 3:45 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown person.

Delivery of an unknown object
- Placement

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 3:45 pm.

Conversation No. 336-11

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 2:35 and before 3:45 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown person.

Vietnam
- President’s speech
- Delivery

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 3:45 pm.
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 3:45 - 3:46 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Marjorie P. Acker.

[Unintelligible]

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
- President’s copy
- Preparation
- Rose Mary Woods

Acker left at 3:46 pm.

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:46 and 3:58 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Rose Mary Woods.

Vietnam
- President’s speech
- Draft
- Wording
- Deletions
Conversation No. 336-14

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:46 and 3:58 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Rose Mary Woods.

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
- Wording

Conversation No. 336-15

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown after 3:46 and before 3:58 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown man.

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 6s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 3:58 pm.
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Between 3:58 and 3:59 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

Henry A. Kissinger talked with the President.

[See Conversation No. 24-5]

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:59 and 4:13 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Rose Mary Woods.

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  - Final copy
  - Preparation
  - Wording
  - Changes

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:59 and 4:13 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.

President’s schedule
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  - Preparation
  - Cabinet meeting
-Time
-Meeting with Congressional leaders
-Return calls
  -John B. Connally
  -William F. (“Billy”) Graham

Vietnam
  -Blockade
  -Democrats

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 3:59 and 4:13 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with the White House operator.

[See Conversation No. 24-6]

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 4:13 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The White House operator talked with the President.

[See Conversation No. 24-7]
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Time: Between 4:14 and 4:15 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Alexander P. Butterfield.

[See Conversation No. 24-8]

Conversation No. 336-22

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 4:15 and 4:25 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with the White House operator.

[See Conversation No. 24-9]

Conversation No. 336-23

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 4:15 and 4:25 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown man.

Vietnam
- Meeting with Congressional leaders
- Arrangements

Conversation No. 336-24

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 4:25 pm
The White House operator talked with the President.

[See Conversation No. 24-10]

---

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown after 4:25 and before 4:35 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  - Attire
    - Color
    - Tie

Sanchez left at an unknown time before 4:35 pm.

---

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 4:25 and 4:35 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.

Vietnam
- President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  - Preparations
    - Copies
Conversation No. 336-27

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 4:25 and before 4:35 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown man.

**********************************************************************
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]  
[Duration: 10s]
END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
**********************************************************************

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 4:35 pm.

Conversation No. 336-28

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Between 4:35 and 4:36 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Julie Nixon Eisenhower.

[See Conversation No. 24-11; one item has been withdrawn from the conversation.]
Conversation No. 336-29

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 4:36 and 4:50 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President talked with an unknown person.  

-President’s forthcoming speech on Vietnam blockade  
-Soliciting public reaction to speech  
-The President’s view  
-Well-wishers

Conversation No. 336-30

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 4:36 and before 4:50 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President met with an unknown man.  

-President’s forthcoming speech on Vietnam blockade  
-Attire  

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 4:50 pm.

Conversation No. 336-31

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: 4:50 - 4:55 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President met with Rose Mary Woods.
Conversation No. 336-31 (cont.)

Vietnam
- President’s speech
  - Copy
  - Proofreading
- Changes
  - Wording
  - Winston Lord
  - South Vietnam
  - Proper title

Woods left at 4:55 pm.

Conversation No. 336-32

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Between 4:55 and 4:57 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

[See Conversation No. 24-13]

[End of telephone conversation]

An unknown person entered at an unknown time after 4:55 pm.

Delivery of speech draft

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 4:57 pm.
Conversation No. 336-33

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 4:57 and before 5:23 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President met with an unknown person.  

The President’s schedule  

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 5:23 pm.

Conversation No. 336-34

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 4:57 and 5:23 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.  

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-35

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 4:57 and 5:23 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President talked with the White House operator.  

[See Conversation No. 24-14]
Conversation No. 336-36

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 4:57 and 5:23 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-37

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Between 5:23 and 5:27 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

[See Conversation No. 24-16]

Conversation No. 336-38

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 5:27 - 5:30 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Rose Mary Woods.

Vietnam

-Presidential’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
 -Change in wording

Woods left at 5:30 pm.
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:52 and 5:54 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam
  -President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  -Revisions
  -Escalation of war
  -References
  -Deletions
  -Strength of wording
  -Kissinger’s revisions
  -Charles G. (“Bebe”) Rebozo

German treaties

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 5:54 - 5:55 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Rose Mary Woods.

[Unintelligible]

Woods left at 5:55 pm.
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:55 and 6:09 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972,. pp. 583-587]

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown after 5:55 and before 6:09 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Rose Mary Woods.

Vietnam
  -President’s speech
  -Woods’ work

Woods left at and unknown time before 6:09 pm.

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown after 5:55 and before 6:09 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown man.

**********************************************************************
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 2s ]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

**********************************************************************

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 6:09 pm.

Date:  May 8, 1972
Time:  Unknown between 5:55 and 6:09 pm
Location:  Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.

Vietnam
- President’s speech
- Cabinet meeting
  - President’s appearance
  - Adm. Thomas H. Moorer
  - President’s departure

Conversation No. 336-44
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:55 and 6:09 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:55 and 6:09 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam
- President’s speech
- Press copy
- Deletion
Conversation No. 336-47

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 5:55 and 6:09 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-48

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 5:55 and 6:09 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam  
- President’s speech  
- Change  
- Deletion

Conversation No. 336-49

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: 6:09 - 6:14 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Alexander P. Butterfield.
Vietnam
   -President’s speech
   -Change
       -Henry A. Kissinger
   -Meeting with Congressional leaders
   -A copy
   -President’s meeting with Congressional leaders
   -Time and place
   -Cabinet

Butterfield left at 6:14 pm.

Conversation No. 336-50

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:14 and 6:22 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-51

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:14 and 6:22 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam
   -President’s speech
   -Deletion
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:14 and 6:22 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-53

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:19 and 6:22 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.

Vietnam
  -President’s speech
  -Lighting
    -Mark I. Goode

Conversation No. 336-54

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:19 and 6:22 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Meeting with the President

Conversation No. 336-55
Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 6:19 and 6:22 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.  

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-56

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: 6:22 - 6:34 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building  

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger.  

Vietnam  
- President’s speech on the blockade  
- US courses of action  
  - Wording  
  - Deletions  
  - US withdrawal  

The President talked with an unknown person at an unknown time between 6:22 pm and 6:34 pm.  

[Conversation No. 336-56A]  
- Changes  

[End of telephone conversation]  
- US offers  
  - North Vietnam rejection  
  - Prisoners of war [POWs]  
  - Withdrawal  
  - Cambodia  
  - Wording
Kissinger left at 6:34 pm.

Conversation No. 336-57

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:34 and 7:14 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[This is a continuation of Conversation No. 336-34]

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]
Conv. No. 336-57 (cont.)

Conversation No. 336-58

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 6:34 and 7:14 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam
- President’s speech on the blockade
- Changes
  - Peace offers
  - Cease-fire
- Troops

Conversation No. 336-59

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 6:34 and 7:14 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-60

Date: May 8, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 6:34 and before 7:14 pm  
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown man.
The unknown man left at an unknown time before 7:14 pm.

Conversation No. 336-61

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:34 and 7:14 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Henry A. Kissinger.

Meeting with the President
   -Speech

Conversation No. 336-62

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 6:34 and 7:14 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]
Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown after 6:34 and before 7:14 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with an unknown man.

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 33s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 7:14 pm.

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 7:14 - 7:25 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam
   -President’s forthcoming speech
   -Soviet Summit
     -Possible cancellation
   -US response
- Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
  - Kissinger’s briefing
    - Handling of questions
      - Soviet ships on high seas
  - Blockade
    - Weapons and supplies
  - Air strikes
    - Time
      - Comparison to 1966-67
    - Petroleum, oils, and lubricants [POL]
  - William Yandell Elliott
    - World War II
  - Targets
    - POL dumps
      - Psychological impact
    - Priority
    - Railroads
    - Power plants
      - Destruction
    - POLs and power plants
  - Effectiveness to date
    - Supplies on hand
    - Melvin R. Laird
  - Meeting with Congressional leaders
    - Kissinger
    - William P. Rogers
    - Laird
  - Kissinger’s meeting with Dobrynin
  - President’s meeting with Congressional leaders
    - Length
    - Questions
      - Rogers and Laird
  - Blockade
    - Adm. Thomas H. Moorer
      - Position
    - Gen. Creighton Abrams
      - Position
    - Laird
      - The President’s view
      - Political plans

Kissinger left at 7:25 pm.
Conversation No. 336-65

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 7:25 and 8:04 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown man.

Vietnam
- William P. Rogers
- Peace offer
- Adm. Thomas H. Moorer
- Melvin Laird
- Rogers

Conversation No. 336-66

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 7:25 and 8:04 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

Conversation No. 336-67

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown between 7:25 and 8:04 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.
President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
  -Meeting with Congressional leaders
  -Call to the President

Conversation No. 336-68

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: Unknown after 7:25 - 8:05 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President rehearsed his “Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia”.

[See Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1972, pp. 583-587]

H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman talked with the President between 8:04 and 8:05 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-68A]

[See Conversation No. 24-17]

[End of telephone conversation]

Conversation No. 336-69

Date: May 8, 1972
Time: 9:45 - 11:22 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman.

Vietnam
  -President’s forthcoming speech on the blockade
    -Delivery
    -Wording
    -Appeals to deity
NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. Nov-01)

Conv. No. 336-68 (cont.)

- Rose Mary Woods
- Responses
- Soviet Summit
- Press
  - Advanced texts
- Length
- Mining
  - Tone
  - Wording
    - William P. Rogers
- Blockade
  - Purpose
    - Rhetoric

Haldeman talked with an unknown person at an unknown time between 9:45 and 9:57 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69A]

Henry A. Kissinger
  - Meeting with the President
    - Time
    - Location
  - Meeting with Congressmen

[End of telephone conversation]

Kissinger
  - Location
    - Meeting with Congressmen

Cabinet meeting
  - Value
    - William P. Rogers
    - Melvin R. Laird and Adm. Thomas H. Moorer
  - Briefings
    - Importance
    - Content
    - Response

Haldeman talked with Alexander P. Butterfield at an unknown time between 9:45 and 9:57 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69B]
[See Conversation No. 24-18]

[End of telephone conversation]

Call from Laird

Laird talked with the President between 9:57 and 10:00 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69C]

[See Conversation No. 24-19]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  - Blockade
    - Rogers
      - The President’s view
    - Laird
    - Rogers
      - Public stance
      - Press reports
        - Leaks
    - Laird
    - Public support
    - Necessity
    - Rogers
      - Public stance
      - Press reports
      - President’s speech

The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:00 and 10:04 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69D]

[See Conversation No. 24-20]

[End telephone conversation]

Vietnam
An unknown man entered at an unknown time after 10:00 pm.

Refreshment

Manolo Sanchez
-Health

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 10:04 pm.

Vietnam
- President’s speech
  -Response
    -Phone calls

The President talked with Julie Nixon Eisenhower between 10:04 and and unknown time before 10:06 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69E]

[See Conversation No. 24-21; one item has been withdrawn from the conversation.]

The President talked with Thelma C. (“Pat”) Nixon between and unknown time after 10:04 and 10:06 pm.

[End of telephone conversation]

Henry A. Kissinger entered at 10:05 pm.

Vietnam
- Blockade
  -Rogers’s statement
    -The President’s view
- Bombing
  -Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
  -Time
  -Haldeman
  -Necessity
  -Michael J. Mansfield
    -People’s Republic of China [PRC] border
    -Meeting with Kissinger
President’s speech
-Charles W. Colson’s phone calls
  -The President’s view
-George Meany
  -Kissinger’s call
-Frank E. Fitzsimmons
- I. W. Abel
-Postal workers
-Educators
  -William Carter, Wisconsin State University
  -Unknown person from Eastern Kentucky University
-Blockade
  -Kissinger’s previous meeting with Dobrynin
    -Soviet response
-Air strikes
  -Intensity
  -Bombing of civilian areas
-President’s speech
  -The President’s view
  -Delivery
-Blockade
  -Laird’s public stance
    -President’s message to pilots
-Rogers
  -Position
  -The President’s view
  -Kissinger’s view
-Laird
  -The President’s view
-President’s speech
-Message of support
  -Victor Riesel
-Editorial support
  -Seattle Post-Intelligencer
  -Arizona Republic
  -Boston Herald-Traveller
  -Denver Post
    -Bill Hornby
  -Buffalo Evening News
  -Los Angeles Herald-Examiner
  -San Diego Union
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- Columbus Dispatch
  - Carl McLunan [?]
- Hartford Courant
- Houston Chronicle
- Chicago Tribune
- George Healy
- Wallace F. Bennett
- Mayors and governors
  - Mayor of Spokane
  - Salem, Oregon
  - Winfield Dunn
- Comparison to Cuban Missile Crisis
  - Mining
- Soviet Summit
- Possible cancellation
  - Kissinger’s view
- President’s speech
- Support
  - Max M. Fisher
  - Mr. and Mrs. Taft Schreiber
- German leaders
  - Franz Josef Strauss
  - Willy Brandt
  - Message
    - Soviet Summit
- Delivery
  - The President’s view
- Blockade
- Foreign response
  - Egon Bahr [?]
  - Relations with the US
- Bombing
  - PRC border
    - Mansfield’s reservations
    - Rogers
- Rogers
  - Subcabinet briefing
    - Value
    - Position
      - North Vietnamese mining of Saigon River
- US attitude
NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. Nov-01)
Conv. No. 336-69 (cont.)

-Haig
   -Trip to Vietnam
-Ronald L. Ziegler
-Kissinger’s briefing
   -Meaning of President’s decision
   -Support within Administration
     -Rogers

Kissinger’s schedule

Vietnam
   -Blockade and bombing
     -Laird
       -Position
     -Rogers
       -Europe
     -Laird
   -Subcabinet briefing
     -Kissinger
     -Value
     -Time

Kissinger’s schedule

Vietnam
   -Blockade
     -President’s decision
       -Necessity
       -Lot’s wife
     -Importance
     -Kissinger’s view
   -Air strikes
     -Compared with World War II
     -Hanoi, Haiphong
       -Intensity
         -The President’s view

Kissinger left at 10:23 pm.

Vietnam
   -Blockade
   -Rogers
An unknown man entered at an unknown time after 10:23 pm.

A cigar

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 10:42 pm.

Vietnam
  -Blockade
  -Need for support

An unknown man entered at an unknown time after 10:23 pm.

Cigars

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 10:42 pm.

Vietnam
  -Blockade decision
    -Supporters
      -Telephone calls
        -Initiative
        -List
        -Purpose
      -Mobilization
      -Cabinet
        -Elliott L. Richardson
        -Rogers
        -Donald H Rumsfeld and Robert H. Finch
        -Philosophy

Dwight D. Eisenhower
  -Philosophy

Soviet Summit
  -Cancellation
    -Likelihood
    -John B. Connally’s forthcoming resignation
      -Timing
      -Rogers
Haldeman talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69F]

[See Conversation No. 24-22]

[End of telephone conversation]

Haldeman talked with Charles G. (“Bebe”) Rebozo at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69G]

[See Conversation No. 24-23]

[End of telephone conversation]
Haldeman talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

[Conversation No. 366-69H]

[See Conversation No. 24-24]

Haldeman conferred with the President at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

Vietnam
   -President’s speech
   -Comparison with other speeches
   -Public response

[End of conferral]

Haldeman talked with Colson at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

[End of telephone conversation]

The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69I]

[See Conversation No. 24-25]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
   -Blockade
   -[David] Kenneth Rush
      -“Today” show appearance
   -Colson
      -Analysis of speech
      -Analysis of response
   -President’s speech
      -Public response
      -Phone calls
      -Publicity
         -Ziegler
      -Western Union
Haldeman talked with an unknown person at an unknown time between 10:23 and 10:42 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69J]

Call to Ziegler

[End of telephone conversation]

The President talked with Rush between 10:42 and 10:45 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69K]

[See Conversation No. 24-26]

[End of telephone conversation]

Haldeman talked with Ziegler between 10:42 and an unknown time before 10:47 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69L]

Vietnam
  -President’s speech
  -Response

[End of telephone conversation]

The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:45 and 10:47 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69M]

[See Conversation No. 24-169]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  -President’s speech
  -Response
  -Ziegler
The White House operator talked with the President at an unknown time between 10:45 and 10:47 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69N]

[See Conversation No. 24-27]

[End of telephone conversation]

The President talked with George Meany between 10:47 and 10:48 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69O]

[See Conversation No. 24-28]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  -Meany
  -Statement

Tricia Nixon Cox talked with the President between 10:49 and an unknown time before 10:52 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69P]

[See Conversation No. 24-29; one item has been withdrawn from the conversation.]

The President talked with Edward R. F. Cox at an unknown time after 10:49 and 10:52 pm.

[End of telephone conversation]
Haldeman talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69Q]

[See Conversation No. 24-30]

[End to telephone conversation]

Graham
- Position on Vietnam

Vietnam
- Air strikes
  - Intensity

The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69R]

[See Conversation No. 24-31]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
- President’s speech
  - Public response
    - Rose Mary Woods
    - Jack Cauley [sp?]
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 13
[Privacy]
[Duration: 4s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 13
**********************************************************************

- Telephone call
  - Charles S. Rhyne
    - Telephone call
  - Adm. Moorer
    - Telephone call
  - Claudia Miles
    - Call from Llewelyn J. Evans, Jr.
  - Woods
    - President’s delivery
    - Soviets
    - Schedule

The White House operator talked with Haldeman at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69S]

[See Conversation No. 24-32]

[End of telephone conversation]

Haldeman talked with Graham at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69T]

[See Conversation No. 24-33]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
Colson talked with Haldeman at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69U]

[See Conversation No. 24-34]

[End of telephone conversation]
Conv. No. 336-69 (cont.)

Colson talked with Haldeman at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69V]
[See Conversation No. 24-35]
[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  -President’s speech
    -Meany’s public statement
      -Strength of support
    -Rogers [?]
    -A report
    -Harris poll
      -Public support for blockade
        -President’s candor
          -Enhancement

Lawrence M. Higby talked with Haldeman at an unknown time between 10:52 and 11:22 pm.

[Conversation No. 336-69W]
[See Conversation No. 24-36]
[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam
  -President’s speech
    -George D. Aiken
      -Statement of support
    -Statements of support
      -Reading of Telegrams
        -Publicity

The President and Haldeman left at 11:22 pm.