Conversation No. 710-1

Date: April 17, 1972  
Time: 4:56 pm - unknown before 4:59 pm  
Location: Oval Office  

The President met with Stephen B. Bull.  

The President's schedule  
-Meeting with Henry A. Kissinger  
-Time  

Bull left at an unknown time before 4:59 pm.

Conversation No. 710-2

Date: April 17, 1972  
Time: Unknown after 4:56 pm until 4:59 pm  
Location: Oval Office  

The President met with Alexander P. Butterfield.  

[Signing documents]  

The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 4:56 and 4:59 pm.  

[Conversation No. 710-2A]  

[See Conversation No. 23-9]  

[End of telephone conversation]  

The President's schedule  
-Tuesday event  
-Time  

Butterfield left at 4:59 pm.
Date: April 17, 1972  
Time: 4:59 pm - 5:02 pm  
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with Tricia Nixon Cox.

[See Conversation No. 23-10]

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Date: April 17, 1972  
Time: 5:02 pm - 5:50 pm  
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger.

Vietnam  
- Kissinger’s conversation with John A. Scali  
- The president's meeting with People's Republic of China [PRC] table tennis team   
  - Location of possible match  
  - Problems  
  - Possible cancellation  
  - Announcement  
  - Possible cancellation  
- Moscow trip  
  - Bombing in North Vietnam  
- Bombing  
  - Risks  
  - Consequences  
  - Kissinger’s and the president's soviet trips  
  - Necessity  
  - Kissinger’s conversation with Stewart J.O. Alsop  
- The President's Soviet trip  
  - Scali  
- Visit of People's Republic of China [PRC] team  
  - Possible cancellation  
- Michael J. Mansfield’s trip to PRC
H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman entered at 5:10 pm.

PRC
- Table tennis team visit and match
  - Arrangements
  - Possible cancellation of meeting with the President
  - Arrangements
  - Announcement
- Possible actions
  - Meeting with the President
  - Cancellation of team's tour
- Arrangements for team's visit and match
  - Scali's memorandum
  - Setting
  - Time
  - Tour of White House
  - Meeting with the president
  - Graham B. Steenhoven
  - Greetings
  - Chuang Tse-tung
- Table tennis team
  - Schedule
  - Tricia Nixon Cox’s attendance at match
- Statements on US bombing of North Vietnam

Haldeman left at 5:12 pm.

Vietnam
- Meeting with Laird and Moorer
  - Length

Laird and Moorer entered at 5:13 pm.

Greetings
William M. Colmer luncheon

Vietnam
- Laird’s testimony
  - Coordination with William P. Rogers's and the President’s statements
  - Possible questions
    - Vietnamization
    - Failure
  - South Vietnamese performance
    - North Vietnamese invasion
      - Modern Soviet equipment
- Military operations
  - Soviet equipment
  - US bombing
  - South Vietnamese performance
    - New South Vietnamese division
      - Offensive
      - Demilitarized zone [DMZ]
      - Hue
      - Movement
      - Damage to North Vietnam
    - Fifth South Vietnamese division
      - Improvements
      - Commander
        - Change
      - An loc
        - Tanks
        - Air support
      - Air cover
        - South Vietnamese Air Force
          - Capabilities
          - Sorties
            - Number
            - B-52s
            - TACAIR
  - Damage to North Vietnam
  - South Vietnamese performance
- Laird’s testimony
  - Future fighting
  - South Vietnamese performance
    - Capabilities
- Destruction of tanks
  - Figures
  - Weapons used
  - Antitank capabilities
- Nguyen Van Thieu
- South Vietnamese tanks
  - Number
  - Combat teams
- Military Region Two
  - Irregular forces
- An loc, Hue and other cities
  - Difficulties
  - South Vietnamese responsibilities
  - US support
- North Vietnamese invasion
  - Importance
  - Compared with Tet offensive
    - Casualties
    - US and South Vietnam
- US forces
  - Ground elements
  - Press
    - Medal and citation to unknown Lieutenant Colonel
- South Vietnamese performance
  - Improvements
- Laird’s testimony
  - Bombing
    - Military targets
    - Military installations
  - Nuclear weapons
    - Exclusion
  - Bombing
    - Targets
      - Hanoi and Haiphong
- Soviets
  - Ships to North Vietnam
  - Caution
- Negotiations
  - Rogers and Laird testimony
  - Laird position
  - Conditions
-Duress
-Need for substance
-Edmund S. Muskie proposal

-Cease-fire
-North Vietnamese invasion
-DMZ
-Illegality
-Continuation
-US reaction
  -Support for South Vietnam
  -Protection for US personnel
  -Curb of aggression
-North Vietnamese performance

-Cease-fire
-US support
-Risks
  -US personnel
  -South Vietnamese
-North Vietnamese invasion
-Congress
-Antiwar resolution
  -Condemnation of invasion
  -Bias
  -Charge of assisting the enemy

-Public relations
-Television
-Laird
-John C. Stennis
  -Appearance on Today Show
-F. Edward Hebert
-Nelson A. Rockefeller
-Stennis and Hebert
-Hawks
  -Television appearances
-US policies
-Congressional support
  -Possible erosion
    -Laos operation
-Naval action
-Blockade
  -Further discussion
-Newport News
-Other cruisers
-Effectiveness
-Cruisers
-US forces
-Strengthening
-Public statements
-Confidentiality
-Number of ships
-Navy forces
-North Vietnamese knowledge
-Carriers
-Panama Canal
-Cape Hope
-Arrival
-North Vietnamese invasion
-Withdrawals
-US strikes
-South Vietnamese performance
-Air sorties
-Effectiveness
-Aircraft
-Maintenance
-Training
-US goals
-US support
-Prisoners of war [POWs]
-Return
-Negotiations
-Conditions
-Previous discussions
-Failures
-North Vietnamese invasion
-Withdrawals
-DMZ
-US position
-Soviets
-Support of North Vietnam
-US reaction
-US credibility
-Middle East
-Surface to air missile [SAMs]
-United Arab Republic
- North Vietnamese aggression
  - Risks
  - Precedents
    - Soviets
    - US response
- Vietnamization
  - South Vietnamese performance
    - Press reports
    - Errors
    - Success of program
- Military operations
  - An loc
    - South Vietnamese control
    - North Vietnamese assaults
    - 21st South Vietnamese division
    - Roads
      - Clearance
    - North Vietnamese units
      - 271st regiment
      - Artillery and tanks
- US Armed Forces
  - Honor and confidence of public
- Blockade
  - Imposition
    - Time
  - Mining
    - Advantages
    - Advantages
      - Selectivity
  - Mining
    - Disadvantages
      - Elimination
      - Small ships
      - Supplies
- US equipment
- Military operation against the Do Son Peninsula
  - Commander [Forename unknown] Moss
    - Rescue from water

US Navy
- Practice
  - Colebra
- Ecological concerns

Vietnam
  - US operations

The President's schedule
  - Dinner with relatives

The President, Kissinger, Laird and Moorer left at 5:50 pm.

Conversation No. 710-5

Date: April 17, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:50 pm and 11:59 pm
Location: Oval Office

Unknown persons met.

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BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Non-historical returnable]
[Duration: 43s.]

THE PRESIDENT'S LOCATION
THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
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The conversation was cut off at an unknown time before 11:59 pm.