Conversation No. 799-36/800-1

Date: October 16, 1972
Time: 5:01 pm - 5:03 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with Paul Miller.

[This recording began at an unknown time while the conversation was in progress.]

[See Conversation No. 31-74; one item has been withdrawn.]

Conversation No. 800-2

Date: October 16, 1972
Time: 5:03 pm - 5:26 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Vietnam negotiations
- Henry A. Kissinger
- Possible proposals
- The President’s proposal
- Nguyen Van Thieu
  - Possible meeting with the President
  - Midway Island
  - Possible interpretation

The President talked with William R. Hearst between 5:04 pm and 5:08 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-2A]

[See Conversation No. 31-75]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam negotiations
- Thieu
Possible meeting with the President
- 1972 election
- San Clemente
- Western White House

The White House operator talked with the President at an unknown time between 5:08 pm and 5:14 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-2B]

[See Conversation No. 31-76]

The President conferred with Haig.

    Vietnam negotiations
    - Thieu

[End of conferral]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam negotiations
  - Haig’s view.
  - Role with Thieu
    - Kissinger compared to Abrams
  - Thieu
    - Kissinger
  - The President’s letter to Abrams
  - Haig’s previous conversation with Abrams
- South Vietnam
  - US support
    - Limitations
      - Riots aboard US naval vessels

An unknown person entered and left at an unknown time between 5:08 pm and 5:14 pm.

Refreshment

Vietnam negotiations
- Navy and Air Force
  - Length of deployments
The President talked with Robert W. Galvin between 5:14 pm and 5:16 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-2C]

[See Conversation No. 31-77; one item has been withdrawn]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam negotiations
- Possible settlement
  - Thieu
    - Prisoners of war [POWs] wives

The President talked with Martin S. Hayden between 5:16 pm and 5:21 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-2D]

[See Conversation No. 31-78]

[End of telephone conversation]

Vietnam negotiations
Possible settlement
- Thieu
  - Possible meeting with the President
    - Kissinger
    - Haig’s view
      - Thieu’s enthusiastic support of the settlement
- The President’s possible meeting with Thieu
  - Need for Thieu’s support of the settlement
- Possible collapse of settlement
  - 1972 election
    - Subsequent settlement
      - Possible ultimatum to Thieu
- The President's May 8, 1972 decision
  - Bombing and mining
    - Effect on North Vietnamese

POW wives
- The President's recent meeting with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia
  - The President’s pledge not to abandon the POW’s
  - The President’s pledge to prevent imposition of communist government on South Vietnam
  - Betrayal of allies
  - POW’s, missing in action [MIA’s]
  - The President’s pledge not to rely on goodwill of North Vietnamese to release POW’s
    - George S. McGovern

Abrams
- Role as advocate
  - The President’s previous meeting with Abrams
  - Haig’s view
  - Haig’s forthcoming meeting with Abrams
    - Abrams’s key role in the settlement
      - Kissinger
        - Ellsworth F. Bunker
  - Forthcoming meetings with Thieu
    - Thieu’s possible acceptance of settlement
      - The President as an ally of Thieu
    - Thieu’s possible rejection of settlement
      - The President’s loss of confidence in Thieu

Haig left at 5:26 pm.
Tape Subject Log
(rev. Nov-03)

Conversation No. 800-3

Date: October 16, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:26 pm and 5:34 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull.

The President's telephone calls
- John F. Collins, John T. Connor, Francis Scumaci, Fred Gualtieri
- Instructions
- Timing of calls

Bull left at an unknown time before 5:34 pm.

Conversation No. 800-4

Date: October 16, 1972
Time: Unknown between 5:26 pm and 5:34 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull.

The President's schedule
- Forthcoming telephone call to Richard M. Scaife
- Possible meeting with H.R. (“Bob”) Haldeman
- Haldeman’s schedule

Bull left at an unknown time before 5:34 pm.

Conversation No. 800-5

Date: October 16, 1972
Time: 5:34 pm - 6:16 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H.R. ("Bob") Haldeman.

Haldeman’s previous conversation with William P. Rogers

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[National security]
[Duration: _1m 38s_]

ISRAEL

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[Personal returnable]
[Duration: _3m 12s_]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

Polls
- Vietnam War
  - Approval of the President's handling
  - George S. McGovern's televised proposals
  - Compared with reaction to Administration actions
    - May 8, 1972 announcement
    - Busing announcement
    - January 25, 1972 announcement of peace plan
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Tape Subject Log
(rev. Nov-03)

- August 15, 1971 announcement on wages and prices

Vietnam War
- The President's recent meeting with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia
  - Charles W. Colson
  - Public relations
    - Similar events
      - Washington Star headline and photograph
        - Unknown woman [Nellie Davis?]
      - Article
        - The President’s pledge not to rely on the goodwill of North Vietnamese to release prisoners of war [POW’s]
        - Amnesty
        - Possible network coverage
        - The President’s impromptu remarks
          - Advantages compared to possible prepared remarks

Polling
- McGovern’s plan for peace
  - Henry A. Kissinger
  - Bombing halt
  - End of military and political support for South Vietnam
  - Withdrawal of US forces
  - Resolution of issues by Vietnamese alone
  - Possible trip by the Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to Hanoi
    - POW’s
  - Amnesty for draft evaders
    - The President’s statement
      - Raymond K. Price, Jr.
  - Corruption of Nguyen Van Thieu government
  - Role of Thieu government in heroin trafficking
    - US military personnel
  - Re-election of the President
    - Continuation of conflict
  - Espionage and sabotage by the Committee to Re-Elect the President [CRP]

The President talked with Joseph J. Staszak between 5:42 pm and 5:44 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-5A]

[See Conversation No. 31-79; one item has been withdrawn]
[End of telephone conversation]

Telephone calls by President
- Effect
  - Haldeman’s view
  - Unknown labor official

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 4
[Personal returnable]
[Duration: ___7m 13s ___]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 4

Press briefing
- Ronald L. Ziegler's responses [to questions concerning Dwight L. Chapin and Donald H. Segretti]
  - Washington Star article

Campaign practices
- Effect of McGovern's charges
  - Public response
    - Vietnam, welfare
    - View of the President

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew
- Possible call from the President
  - Agnew's schedule
- Previous conversation with Haldeman
  - Washington Post story on campaign practices
    - Effect on public relations
      - 1968 campaign
      - Possible backlash

Press relations
Response by the administration to stories on campaign practices
  - Colson
    - Robert H. Finch, Herbert G. Klein
  - Robert J. Dole
  - Agnew
  - Clark MacGregor
  - John B. Connally
  - Possible press conference
Press stories on Segretti’s activities
  - National press
  - Local press
  - National press
    - Washington Post story
The President’s instructions
  - Life magazine
  - Time magazine
  - Hugh S. Sidey
  - Theodore H. (“Teddy”) White
  - 1972 election

The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 5:44 pm and 5:59 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-5B]

[See Conversation No. 31-80]

[End of telephone conversation]

The President's telephone calls
  - White House switchboard
    - Operators

Agnew
  - Schedule
    - Grand Rapids, Michigan
    - Green Bay, Wisconsin
    - Local taping
    - Alfred E. Smith dinner
    - Revenue sharing signing ceremony
    - Chicago
    - Pittsburgh
The President talked with Agnew between 5:59 pm and 6:08 pm.

[Conversation No. 800-5C]

[See Conversation No. 31-81]

[End of telephone conversation]

*****************************************************************
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5
[Personal returnable]
[Duration: __8m 7s__]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5

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

The President and Haldeman left at 6:16 pm.

Conversation No. 800-6

Date:  October 16, 1972
Time:  Unknown between 6:16 pm, October 16, 1972 and 7:54 am, October 17, 1972
Location:  Oval Office

An unknown person [Secret Service agent] talked with an unknown person.

[Pause]

The President’s location
  -Residence