

February 17, 1969

Telephone Conversation Transcript, Henry Kissinger and William P. Rogers

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Summary:

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty for ratification and its chairman, J. William Fulbright (D-Ark), wanted to know where Israel stood on the Treaty. Believing that the issue should be handled at the White House level, Rogers proposed a meeting with Kissinger, Laird, and CIA director Richard Helms. Agreeing to schedule a meeting, Kissinger acknowledged that the issue was also "political."

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Original Scan

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TELCON
 Secy Rogers
 Mr. Kissinger
 2-17-69 6:50 PM

R asked K whether he was going to have backgrounder on the trip. K said he thinks the President is planning to have one on Friday. R said they had asked him to have one, but if President is going to have one, he will not.

R said we have a serious problem which might develop - not only from foreign policy standpoint but from a political standpoint as well. R said it is probably not fine for the NSC but is important enough to have it taken up at White House level - this question as to whether Israel has nuclear capability now. ~~Kxxxx~~ R said Fulbright wants to know what we know about this before they report Treaty out. R said he is going up tomorrow to testify but plans to duck it. K brought up resultant consequences as far as Soviets are concerned [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] R said Helms is going up before Joint Committee and plans to say something along the line that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] K said it is a political problem. R said he thought that Helms, Laird and himself should come over tomorrow. K said he would work it out with Chapin and we will have a half hour no later than Wednesday noon. K said R should not say any less than Helms.

jm

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

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By MCH NARA, Date 10/21/2011

Ep. 1 of 1

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per 3.3(b)(6)