

Conversation No. 806-9

Date: October 24, 1972
Time: 11:15 am - 11:45 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger and Fritz G.A. Kraemer; the White House photographer was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Introduction

[Photograph session]

Intellectual interpretation of world events

- Doves
- Totalitarianism
 - Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China [PRC]

Sacrifice

Kraemer

- Analysis of administration activities
 - Kissinger's effort bringing to President's attention
- Background
 - Nicholas P. Thimmesch's article
 - Thimmesch's conversation with Kraemer
 - Baltimore Sun*
 - Tone
 - Farm work in Maine
 - Commission in infantry
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]
- Power

World affairs

- Change
- Intentions of Communists
 - Soviet Union, PRC
- Nikolai A. Podgorny, Leonid I. Brezhnev, Aleksei N. Kosygin
 - Bureaucracy
 - Compared to Nikita S. Khrushchev, Josef V. Stalin
 - Risk
 - Egypt
 - Confrontation
- PRC
 - Mao Tse-tung
 - Kraemer's efforts in 1965

-Perception

Vietnam

- Technical cables
 - Central Office of South Vietnam [COSVN] instruction
 - Cease-fire
 - National Liberation Front [NLF] flag display in Government of South Vietnam [GVN] areas
 - Viet Cong [VC] view
 - North Vietnam intentions
- Cease-fire
 - Timing of announcement and implementation
 - North Vietnamese actions
 - Twelve hours
 - First two days
 - International supervision
 - Timing of arrival
- 1972 election
 - Settlement
 - Timing
 - Deadline
 - Concessions
 - North Vietnamese reaction
 - View of the President
 - US strategy
 - US demands
 - North Vietnamese prisoners in South Vietnamese jails issue
- Cease-fire
 - North Vietnamese stance
 - Military situation
 - Bombing
 - Mining
 - Attrition
 - B-52s, carriers
 - Results
 - Mao's writings on retreat
 - November 7, 1972 deadline
 - US negotiating position
 - Prior to October 8, 1972
 - Post -October 8, 1972
 - US demands
 - Cambodia
 - North Vietnamese position
 - PRC
 - Laos
 - Commission

- Souvanna Phouma
 - Quoted in French
- US position
 - Critics
 - Demonstrators
 - Establishment
 - Journalists
 - Professors
 - Ministers
 - Businessmen
 - Supporters
 - Intellectual backgrounds similar to Kraemer and Kissinger
 - Workers
 - Ethnics, Farmers, Southerners
 - Washington, DC
 - Quality of settlement
 - War dead
 - Effect on US foreign policy
 - Thieu
 - Effect on US stance
 - Success of settlement
 - Time frame
- Effect of failure of settlement on US foreign relations
 - US-North Vietnam relations
 - Questions of other nations
 - Soviet Union, PRC
 - Conclusions
 - Rio de Janeiro to Copenhagen, Hanoi to Moscow
 - Political compared to diplomatic options
- Reasons for Vietnam War
 - Berlin
 - South Vietnam
 - Cuba
 - Psychological factors
 - French Foreign Legion
 - Discipline
 - Prince [Aage] of Denmark
 - Discipline of North Vietnamese forces
 - Thieu
- South Vietnam's military
 - Kissinger's meetings with regional intelligence officers
 - Directives compared to execution
 - Example
 - Unknown place
 - Cease-fire
 - Gen. Duong Van Minh

-Sapper squads

Kissinger's analysis

- Kissinger
- The President's outlook

Kissinger and Kraemer

- Intellectual background
- Intelligence Quotient [IQ]
 - Character quotient
 - Harvard University, Yale University
- Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
 - Promotions
 - Army
 - Support from field grade officers
 - David Landau quote of Kraemer on brilliance [for *Kissinger: The Uses of Power*]
 - Landau
 - Harvard

Presentation of gifts

- Cuff links
 - Presidential seal
- Kraemer's son [Sven]

Kissinger and Kraemer left at 11:45 am.