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TELECON
Marvin Kalb/Secretary Kissinger
April 23, 1975
6:17 p.m.

RELEASED IN PART
B6

K: You gave me an assignment ten days ago. I have been thinking very hard. I do not know where you stand with [redacted] ..

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HAK: Yourself...you would be my favorite.

K: No. My recommendation is [redacted] I know you do not know him but he knows the Department well.

B6

HAK: Does he sympathize with me?

K: I do not know immediately but he is awfully professional and he has a sensational social and professional background. He is a first class man.

HAK: I know who he is.

K: Whether the two of you would hit it off I cannot judge at the moment but my strong feeling is if there is an outside pro whom reporters can look up to and in whom you can invest confidence, I would recommend him.

HAK: Where is he now?

K: He lives in Washington.

HAK: I mean, is he working now?

K: [redacted]

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HAK: What do you think about Dick?

K: My feeling about Dick is that he would do a good job [redacted]

B6

HAK: I am sure.

K: This person must have an understanding for what you say, for your policies.

HAK: Well, would he have that?

K: I think he potentially would. Partially because he is such a fine human being, but it is something I can't immediately judge. He is my first choice.

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Another name that came to mind is [redacted]

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HAK: Yes.

K: [redacted] he is the kind of person who is solid and he has worked for both television newspapers. I have a lot of personal respect for him.

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HAK: How about [redacted]? Koppel recommends him.

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K: It wouldn't be the first name that would come to mind.

HAK: Do you know him?

K: Not in the same way I know [redacted]. I don't think he is in the same class as the others. He is very bright maybe too much so, and up with the current times.

B6

HAK: To defend my views in the next year will be a nightmare.

K: I am thinking of people who are solid, mature and fixed in their views on foreign policy that go back to WWII. Someone like [redacted] strikes me as a solid person.

B6

HAK: I will turn to this problem later. I was waiting to see whether I could here from you in the next few days.

K: These are good men and I would put them high up. I talked to him and he said to me something almost like what you are saying, does he know me, and could we deal with one another. The most important thing is for you to understand and sympathize with his ideas I said. He also asked whether you had ever considered him and would you talk to him before you made any decision. My judgment is that he is first class.

HAK: What he needs is confidence in American foreign policy. We must rebuild confidence in ourselves.

K: It is going to be as you say; a tough job. I must say there will be more difficulty with Israel and the Middle East than elsewhere.

HAK: With I, Henry Kissinger, or with the United States?

K: The U.S. and President Ford. Some of the things he said on Monday have raised hackles all over the country. I have had 10 calls today on this.

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HAK: Do they think I put him up to that?

K: No. It was posed in terms of a general war. If the President can say on television that the Prime Minister of Israeli might not be welcome here then they are worried.

HAK: There is a real problem. All these stories that I was saying one thing for publication and saying another privately miss two essential points. I was trying to make a deal which you understood, but which the immediate merits of the negotiation did not bear out, and the long term consequences is what we were driving at.

K: There are difficulties.

HAK: I am worried about what will happen through the logic of events. What decisions does an American president make when given problems we are faced with.

K: Part of your problem is that you must get someone to Israel that can talk to the Israelis.

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HAK: He is getting better.

K: I like him but he isn't the guy.

HAK: The Jewish community has to understand that their methods are not good. The Israelis must understand that this is a complex problem. Israel's margin of error is small, so small that they can't take chances.

K: Right. I am going to see a number of Israelis tonight.

HAK: Again, Marvin, it doesn't help them to fortify their self-righteousness. They need to understand that they must face the trends in this country.

K: Do you see any evidence of erosion within the Congress?

HAK: Yes. No question an almost total erosion when you come to military action. On the money, it is really the least of Israel's problems.

K: Well.....

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HAK: If I conceived a Middle East war without American presence, then I see a disaster for Israel. I don't see the Congressional base for that, do you?

K: No I really don't. South Korea will be a problem, and then Israel.

HAK: That is right.

K: If there is anything I can do let me know.

HAK: (Laughter). Thanks, Marvin. You have been a good friend.

K: O.K. Goodbye.

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