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Telcon
Secretary Kissinger
Joe Kraft
7/8/75; 10:58 a.m.

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K: Joe.

Kraft: Henry, how are you?

K: Good.

Kraft: Okay.

K: Joe, two things. I thought after our meeting that I might have left you with the wrong impression about the Rabin/Ford relationship. I think the correct way to describe it is that I think there is not a enormous warmth -- you know, Rabin is not the most -- the warmest person in the world -- but I think the last meeting led to an increase to intellectual respect and some understanding, you know, of what the Israeli strategic concerns are. This does not take away from, you know, the difference between a purely and largely intellectual approach as against one that ~~relies~~ relies more on the ~~the~~ human element, which would be the Ford approach.

Kraft: Uh-huh.

K: But I thought I should make . . .

Kraft: No, I am glad for that correction.

K: I don't know whether I did leave you with a misapprehension.

Kraft: Uh, no, but it spells out the picture a little bit more -- that there was a sort of bond of respect in the last meeting is important.

K: I think that was clearly the case. Secondly, Joe, what -- I know that is not your function to advise me on speeches -- but what would you think the major points are -- not in terms of answers -- on that question of morality in foreign policy?

Kraft: Did Larry speak to you at all? Because I came afterwards and felt that I ought to say to him right away that I felt I put myself in an uncomfortable position on that matter and that it would be inappropriate for me. . .

K: Okay, that is fair enough.

Kraft: Is that understandable to you?

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K: Yes, it is fair enough because you made -- you may want to comment on it and your couldn't very well . . .

Kraft: Right.

K: Fair ~~en~~ enough. In fact, if I had thought about it three minutes I would have -- no, that's fair enough. No, Larry didn't talk to me about it.

Kraft: Okay. Well, I felt very badly and immediately went to see him.

K: No, I think that is fair enough.

Kraft: ~~W~~ One thing I didn't ask about -- do I have a free nickle now?

K: Yeah.

Kraft: I take it that the President himself feels very strongly about this.

K: Very strongly.

Kraft: And he and you are pretty -- that's not exactly the popular position in the government, is it?

K: Please remember that 98% of what the President is being told now of what the Government allegedly thinks is said only to the press and never to the President.

Kraft: I see. But the impression I get is that in the Agency and in the lower reaches of your place in parts of the White House and the Defense Department -- they don't take that view about . . .

K: In the White House it is total bullshit. If there is a view in the White House on _____ difference from the President's and mine, it is one of the few secrets that the White House kept. That is just total bullshit. And -- you know, it may exist, but it has not been brought to the President's attention, to my attention or to Scowcroft's attention. In the State Department I would think that there is now substantial unanimity of view -- there were those -- you know there was a difference between tactics and strategy that is to say I think there is a unanimous view about the worrisome nature of what is going on there. There was some disagreement about the -- how it would be best effected and I think that the conclusion that we have all reached now is that we would

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continue aid programs and we would, but we would not justify them by ~~del~~/ deluding ourselves and that some point will be reached somewhere in the next month where we will have to take a hard look at it to see whether we are helping matters.

Kraft: In the next month or months?

K: months with an "s". And I think in the State Department where there was some question of nuance I think there is now unanimity.

Kraft: By

K: I don't think anyone disagrees about where the current trends go.

Kraft: Yeah.

K: The question is is it possible to mobilize moderate elements in Portugal and how does one most effectively do it. And I think incidentally now that there is agreement between us and the Europeans on this matter in the sense that we are articulating by acquiescence their fears and they are giving a helping hand on the theory that perhaps this gives them an entre with the moderates and we are not trying to block that.

Kraft: Yeah. We are strengthening their hand by having them come out of the helpful . . .

K: That's right and we are continuing our aid program.

Kraft: But it must be very modest. Did Dinitz bring anything?

K: Well, he brought something.

Kraft: Will you be seeing Rabin or don't you . . .

K: Yes, I will be seeing Rabin. It will be announced in a couple of hours, I think.

Kraft: Look, if I don't see you -- you are going when?

K: I am going first thing tomorrow -- I will be back Saturday night. You won't be here this weekend?

Kraft: I am going to be here all weekend.

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K: Well.

Kraft: I would like to see you if you have some time.

K: Let me see -- if I am not too busy working on my speeches I'll -- maybe we can have dinner or a drink on Sunday.

Kraft: That would be fine. I'll be here all alone all weekend.

K: Good. We will call you.

Kraft: That's -- thanks a lot.

K: Good.

Kraft: Bye.

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