

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
General Ryan
John McLucas, Secretary of the Air Force
Secretary Laird, Secretary of Defense
Captain Mike Ryan
Mrs. Ryan
Maj. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, July 30, 1973
12:00 noon

PLACE: Oval Office

SUBJECT: Presentation of Distinguished Service Medal to
General Ryan

Ryan: I want to thank you for taking the time for this, Mr. President.
I am proud to have served.

President: I want you to know we are proud of you. It has been a
tough period. There have been a lot of unpopular actions and much
has been blamed on the Air Force. The Lavelle thing, and so forth.
But I want you to know if it wasn't for the B-52s, those 200 POWs
would still be sitting in Hanoi prisons.

I want you to know I am proud of you and the armed forces -- most
of them. How can we ask our armed services to protect us if we
don't show them the respect they deserve? You can be sure that
as long as I am here they will get that respect.

DECLASSIFIED

AUTHORITY USAF PAC Review, 10/28/03; NSC guidelines
BY llh _____ NLF, DATE 5/17/05



Pres - Gen Ryan 30 July ²

Was R / ^{Capt} strike / Sec kind / substance
R - Thanks for a time. Period to time served.

Pres - Went you to know am proud of you
Has been a tough period. Lot of things
else a time - much has been planned
on Air Force ^{have the thing, and so forth} but want you to know
if we get ^{the} B-52's, those 200
POW's would still be sitting in
Hanoi prisons.

Went you to know I am proud of
you - a armed pres - most of them. How
can we as be our armed services to
protect us if we don't show
them a respect they deserve. You can
be sure as long as I am here they will
get that respect.

12:00 hour, Nov. 30 Jul 13
Oral Tpc.
President present DSM to
Gen Ryan

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