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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:30 A.M. EST

NOVEMBER 16, 1976

TUESDAY

Mr. NESSEN: Let me make a couple of announcements.

One: Yesterday Jimmy Carter phoned the President. It was actually either just before or during the flight from Palm Springs, so the President returned the call when he got to the White House at 5:40. They talked for about seven minutes.

During that call the President and President-elect agreed to meet next week here at the White House. I will give you the details later when they are worked out. They have not all been worked out yet.

Q What day?

MR. NESSEN: We don't have the details worked out yet. It would be early in the week.

Q I take it the phone call was ~~to~~ initiate the meeting; the Carter phone call was to initiate the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Secondly, the President has accepted an invitation by Vice President Rockefeller to spend Saturday evening and Sunday at the Vice President's home in Pocantico Hills, New York. The President and Mrs. Ford will leave the White House Saturday afternoon rather late, fly to the Westchester Airport, which is near Tarrytown, New York, and have dinner with Vice President Rockefeller and the Rockefeller family.

On Sunday, the President and Mrs. Ford will attend church services and participate in the dedication ceremonies giving the Rockefeller estate to the National Park Service as a National Historic Monument.

The White House press corps and the staff will stay at the Hilton Inn in Tarrytown, New York, which is about 10 or 15 minutes from the Rockefeller estate.

I would anticipate at this time that the only events that I expect for coverage would be probably church services on Sunday morning. The dedication is a private ceremony.

Q Where is the church?

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MR. NESSEN: I don't have the name of the church at this time.

Q Could you back up for a second? What are they doing with the Rockefeller estate?

MR. NESSEN: They are giving the Rockefeller estate to the National Park Service as a National Historic Monument.

Q Why? Do you know what makes it a National Historic Monument?

MR. NESSEN: Check with the Park Service.

Q Do you know if it is public knowledge?

MR. NESSEN: Has that been announced before, the fact it was being given?

MR. SHUMAN: No. It has been in the works for a long time, that the family was going to do that.

Q Ron, do you have further details on the gift? Will the Rockefellers occupy the estate until the deaths of both of them?

MR. NESSEN: I think you have to ask them. I do not have the details.

Q Do you have the paper on the estate itself?

MR. NESSEN: I do not. The Vice President's office will give you that.

Q Is that an actual deeding of the estate or simply designation?

MR. NESSEN: I do not have the details. I think you have to check with the Vice President's office and the National Park Service.

Q Why is it a private ceremony if it is becoming a public program?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is really much of a ceremony.

Q Will the Secretary of the Interior participate in the ceremony?

MR. NESSEN: He will.

Q Why is it private?

MR. NESSEN. Phil, it is not our ceremony. You need to check with the Park Service and the Vice President's office.

Q The taxpayers are taking over the cost of this thing and it is a private ceremony?

MR. NESSEN. Phil, I don't have the details. It is my understanding it is going to be a private ceremony.

Q Didn't you ask why it was going to be a private ceremony?

MR. NESSEN. I didn't, no.

Q That doesn't concern you?

MR. NESSEN. Let me finish the plans for the weekend.

We will have a sign-up list posted on the board, so you should sign up if you want to go.

Q Ron, is Jody Powell in the White House right now?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q Is he listening to this briefing?

MR. NESSEN. Maybe.

Q Is he in your office?

MR. NESSEN. He is in my office.

Q Is the speaker on?

MR. NESSEN. It might be.

Q Why isn't he appearing out here in front of the press?

MR. NESSEN. You will have to ask Jody.

Q Did you invite him to come?

Q Maybe we can ask him on the microphone why he doesn't come out?

Q Jody, where are you? (Laughter).

MR. NESSEN. Let's move on.

Q Why is he here?

MR. NESSEN. He is here as part of the transition.

Q Part of the transition is listening to a briefing in your office?

MR. NESSEN. I don't know he is listening, Phil.

Q Is it possible to find out if he is listening?

Q If you are listening, Jody, thump twice.  
(Laughter)

Q Can we find out if Jody is listening? It is nice to know who is listening.

MR. NESSEN. Let's move on.

Q Why can't we find out whether the new White House Press Secretary-designate is listening? Ron, why can't we find out? Why all this concealment? We have Rockefeller's donation, press briefings, and everything is hush, hush, hush. Why, Ron?

Q Can you give us some idea what time the President will return Sunday from Pocantico Hills?

MR. NESSEN. Late afternoon.

Q On the phone call yesterday, are you ready to take questions?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q Where is the ceremony going to be? On the Rockefeller estate?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q Do you know what time?

MR. NESSEN. I don't have any of the details.

Q No press permitted, not even a pool?

MR. NESSEN. That is my understanding. You ought to check with the Vice President and the Park Service.

Q Back to the Powell thing. Could we make a request that Mr. Powell come out?

MR. NESSEN. I will relay your message to him.

Q Ron, in the phone call to the President, did the President-elect discuss an agenda for their meeting?

Q Did the two men discuss an agenda for their meeting?

MR. NESSEN. It was a private conversation, Phil, but they did discuss the meeting.

Q Is it the first time they have talked since the election?

MR. NESSEN. Since Wednesday, November 3.

Q Could you tell us a little bit about the mood? Was it a convivial conversation or purely business?

MR. NESSEN. I didn't listen to either end of the phone conversation, Walt.

Q I thought the President might have told you, "We talked, it was good natured," or "We discussed this, this and this," and therefore you could draw a conclusion it was pure business.

MR. NESSEN. I think it was a cordial business-like conversation.

Q Do you know why the President didn't take that call on Air Force One?

MR. NESSEN. Air Force One communications are not really secure and I suspect that that is the main reason.

Q Will the meeting next week discuss all aspects of the transition or will it concentrate on certain aspects of the transition?

MR. NESSEN. I don't have an agenda for you.

Q Is this the first of a series?

MR. NESSEN. This is the only one scheduled at this time.

Q Ron, I am puzzled by a statement you made earlier. I believe you said Mr. Carter called to initiate the meeting with President Ford?

MR. NESSEN. No, I said Mr. Carter initiated the call. The President was unable to take it at the time.

Q The purpose of the call was to request the meeting?

MR. NESSEN. One of the purposes was to arrange the meeting.

Q Mr. Carter in his news conference said he expected to meet with the President but he was awaiting the President's invitation. This indicates he called to ask for the invitation.

MR. NESSEN. It was decided some time ago that they would meet. This was to begin to set up the meeting.

Q But the initiative was on the part of Mr. Carter and not on the part of the President?

MR. NESSEN. The phone call was initiated by Mr. Carter. The President returned his call.

Q Even before the call, was it the President's intention to invite Mr. Carter to the White House?

MR. NESSEN. I think that was announced last week sometime, week before last.

Q Mr. Carter in his news conference on November 4 said he hoped to meet with the President.

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q Had the President then felt it was up to Mr. Carter to call him?

Q Tell him he wanted to come up?

MR. NESSEN. Mr. Carter is going to be in Washington next week. He had to indicate that as a step toward beginning to make the detailed arrangements for a meeting.

Q You don't by chance know why he is going to be in Washington next week?

MR. NESSEN. You have to ask the Carter people. I think it is certainly on transition business, among other things.

Q Is it safe to assume the President is not inviting Mr. Carter to have Thanksgiving dinner at the White House?

MR. NESSEN. I hadn't heard that part discussed. I don't think it is going to happen.

Q Have you completed today's appointments?

MR. NESSEN. I don't have the President's Thanksgiving plans to announce right now.

I have told you about the Carter call and the trip to Tarrytown. You know about the budget meeting today. That is basically it.

Q Is the President this afternoon presenting an award for the Republican Party or participating in giving an award for the Republican Party to John Connally in the East Room?

MR. NESSEN. Not that I know of.

Q As the outstanding Republican of the year?

MR. NESSEN. It is the first I have heard of it.

Q If he were, you would know about it?

MR. NESSEN. I will check to make sure.

Q Would a ceremony like that be open for coverage and available for reporters?

MR. NESSEN. There are a group of Republicans coming in.

Q When are they coming in?

MR. NESSEN. Sometime late in the afternoon.

Q What for? Who are they?

MR. NESSEN. It is a private meeting with the President.

Q Who are they and how many?

MR. NESSEN. I don't have any of the details.

Q Would the Republican Party present an award for outstanding work --

MR. NESSEN. I said I would check on it.

Q -- without it being open for press coverage?

MR. NESSEN. It is the first I have heard of it. I would like to find out whether there is any such thing taking place first.

Q Are there any other private meetings today we don't know about?

MR. NESSEN. Probably.

Q Is the President meeting with Harold Lever from Britain?

MR. NESSEN. Yes, he is.

Q Can you tell me what that meeting is about?

Q The chief economic adviser to Prime Minister Callahan.

Q Ron, could we do one thing at a time here?

MR. NESSEN. Let's. Which can we do first?

Q Can you tell us anything about this group of Republicans who are coming in?

MR. NESSEN. It is just a group. I don't know that many details myself.

Q What kind of Republicans? Are these Members of Congress, officials, State party leaders?

MR. NESSEN. I haven't seen the list.

Q How many is a group?

MR. NESSEN. I have not seen the total number either.

Q Are we talking about five, six, 50?

MR. NESSEN. I can't even guess.

Q Where are they going to meet?

MR. NESSEN. I will check on this.

Q Why are they coming?

MR. NESSEN. I will check.

Q Ron, can you answer my question about Lever?

MR. NESSEN. Harold Lever is the Treasury Minister in the government of Prime Minister Callahan and the British Government announced yesterday that he was coming, that he was in the United States to talk to officials in Washington and others about the current economic policies of the Callahan government. He will be coming to the White House with a message from Prime Minister Callahan as the British announced yesterday. All of this was announced yesterday in London. So I am reiterating the text of the British announcement to you.

It is a personal message. So we will not announce the contents. That is basically the story of their meeting today.

Q Does the meeting refer to the conditions to be imposed by the IMF on Britain?

MR. NESSEN. I think I will just limit my description of the meeting to the description announced in London yesterday.

Q What time is the meeting and why wasn't it announced here?

MR. NESSEN. It is a private meeting.

Q At what time?

MR. NESSEN. Two o'clock.

Q Do you have any idea how long --

MR. NESSEN. I am sorry. The meeting is at 11 o'clock.

Q So he has been in already?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q He is still here?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q During the campaign, Ron, I don't recall that the President ever expressed any dissatisfaction at all with the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Am I wrong? Do you recall that he ever mentioned any dissatisfaction?

MR. NESSEN. I would have to review all of the --

Q At this point you don't recall he ever did? Right?

MR. NESSEN. I will review it and see.

Q What I would like to know is did the President know Dr. Kissinger was going to instruct Scranton to take the action which is described by The New York Times column yesterday as lame-duck vengeance? Did the President know this was going to be done within days of the election?

MR. NESSEN. Are you referring to the vote in the United Nations?

Q Right.

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q We vetoed it in May. Now in November, just days away from the election, we support this resolution. I was wondering, what does the President feel the Israelis have started doing wrong between May and November?

MR. NESSEN. I think you kept up with this, I know, Les. So you know that the United States position has not changed on this matter. It is fully consistent with the position the United States has taken over the year.

What did change was that the consensus statement of last week did not contain the language to which we objected in May.

Q In the Air Force One pool report last night you indicated that you were going to meet with the President, talk to him about his future plans. Did you?

MR. NESSEN. The President has made no firm decisions on his future plans, either in terms of where he will live or what he will do. He is going to continue to do what he describes as a lot of looking and listening and when he has made his decisions they will be announced. But he doesn't feel that there is any hurry. He is not rushing to make these decisions. He believes that what he has a prime responsibility for between now and January 20th is to be the President of the United States and that is the way he will function.

Q On October 31st, Mrs. Ford met with the New York Board of Rabbis in New York and she said that next Friday the President had asked Dr. Kissinger to meet with the Soviet Ambassador to discuss the plight of the Soviet Jews.

To your knowledge, did that meeting ever take place?

MR. NESSEN. I am not familiar with that, Les.

Q Would you ask somebody to go and check? I think this is rather important.

MR. NESSEN. Does it involve Dr. Kissinger?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN. You ought to check the State Department. Bob Funseth can help you with that.

Q This came up in Mrs. Ford's statement about the President. Do you know if the meeting ever took place between Dr. Kissinger and the Soviet Ambassador?

MR. NESSEN. I think you ought to ask Bob Funseth.

Q Carter said something yesterday involving Mr. Ford. I thought maybe you might be able to clarify it. He said, "You understand that President Ford himself -- and I did not get this information from him -- will wait until possibly the first or second week in December, until economic indicators are available to him, before he makes his statement about the economy." Do you know what this is about, or could you explain?

MR. NESSEN: No. The budget is, of course, being prepared now. Today, as you know, is the first formal session to begin to make budget decisions and the Economic Message to Congress is due under law, I forget what date it is, but within a certain number of days after. But I don't know exactly what is referred to by the statement on it.

Q Are you aware of anything that Mr. Ford might have under consideration to stimulate the economy before he leaves office, any steps if things get worse?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of anything in that area.

Q Have you any comment on Mr. Carter's seeming stress on combatting inflation rather than unemployment that he placed in his news conference yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: No. I think as a matter of policy we will not be commenting on the President-elect's statements before the Inauguration.

Q Did the President intervene with the Mexican Government, at the request of Governor Brown, to obtain the special permission for an American prisoner in Mexico to visit his dying mother?

MR. NESSEN: The President is aware of that matter and has been involved -- I don't know if any of you know the background on this, but as I understand it, there is an American who is in jail in Mexico. I am not exactly sure what the charge is, but the man's mother is dying in a hospital in the United States and his family has asked that he be released for a short time from the jail, 24 hours, I think, to visit his mother. I shouldn't say she is dying in the hospital. She is in the hospital.

Our Embassy in Mexico City raised the matter with the Mexican Government early last week, with the President's knowledge, and I understand that Governor Brown of California has also explored this question of a short release from the jail. Then a few days ago the American Embassy raised it a second time with the Government of Mexico, the appropriate officials there, again with the President's knowledge.

Q When was this, you say?

MR. NESSEN: A few days ago. So far the Mexican Government has been unwilling to give this man a release from prison and Governor Brown did phone the President in Palm Springs to discuss the matter with him. That is really all I have on the matter at this time.

Q Ron, why do you say, "As a matter of policy we will not be commenting on the statements of the President-elect"? Certainly the American people are very interested in the statements of the President-elect. Certainly the White House doesn't think these statements are unimportant and certainly he is President of the United States until the 20th. He certainly must have opinions. They will not necessarily always agree.

I am wondering, could you just tell us why you will not be commenting on the statements of the President-elect?

MR. NESSEN: That is the President's desire.

Q That is, the President himself said "I will not comment. No matter what Jimmy Carter says, I will not comment"? Is that what he said, in effect?

MR. NESSEN: In effect.

Q Ron, the President-elect has held two news conferences since the election. Will we have a news conference or an opportunity to chat with the incumbent at any time in the near future?

MR. NESSEN: There are none planned this week.

Q Getting back to the Mexican prison situation, I may not be abreast of this situation. What about the proposed treaty which would allow the exchange of American and Mexican prisoners?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know where that stands, Saul. This is, I understand, being handled on more of a personal basis, this one single case; whereas, what you are talking about is a treaty. I don't know where that stands. I can check for you.

Q On the President's call on the subject with Governor Brown, what was the nature of it?

MR. NESSEN: Governor Brown wanted to discuss the matter with the President and see what could be done.

Q Did the President have any suggestions, or did anything come out of that call?

Q You say that the U.S. Embassy has been in touch with the Mexican Government twice since the call?

MR. NESSEN: Once since the call.

Q That was the second embassy --

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q What about State? Are they handling this? Can you give us a number at State? Would Funseth know more about this?

Q Can you give us the man's name?

MR. NESSEN: The man's name is Phillip Millard, in the San Francisco area.

Q What is he charged with?

MR. NESSEN: I think I know, but I just don't think it is something I want to guess on, Fran.

Q Funseth is the guy to go to?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Can you give us any indication?

MR. NESSEN: I think Funseth is probably out of town today.

Q No, he isn't. He is here.

MR. NESSEN: I think he is about to leave town. I don't think that is connected with the phone call.

Q Can you give us any indication whether the President has given Kissinger any instructions on the visit down there?

MR. NESSEN: On his visit to Carter?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has given him any instructions.

Q Nothing is off limits as far as you know?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, it is not.

Q I didn't read that very carefully.

MR. NESSEN: Everybody here is operating under the President's general guidelines to make the transition go as smoothly and easily as possible.

Q Have you heard the President make any comment about Senator Ribicoff's suggestion that President-elect Carter should use Henry Kissinger?

MR. NESSEN: No, I didn't hear the President comment on that.

Q Ron, have you been able to find out what the President told Mary Louise Smith about whether he wants her to remain on as the Republican National Committee Chairman?

MR. NESSEN: No. I don't have anything to announce on that.

Q Do you have any conversation between the President and Mrs. Smith?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Can we go back to your comments a few minutes ago on the President's plans? You told us on the plane last night you really didn't feel you could talk about any of this until you had spoken with him. Does your statement this morning reflect the conversation with him this morning?

MR. NESSEN: All my conversations reflect the President's views. I have said that for 2-1/2 years. It is still true. I don't know what the distinction is, but if it makes you happy, yes.

Q What I guess I am wondering, is this, in effect, a definitive statement for the foreseeable, immediate future? I don't mean to belabor the point. In short, is this the President's position?

MR. NESSEN: As of 10 o'clock this morning it is.

Q Will it hold for, say, another couple weeks?

MR. NESSEN: I am not a fortune teller.

Q The reason I am asking is because you indicated, I think on the plane, that after talking with him you would be able to give us a better picture.

MR. NESSEN: I just gave you the better picture.

Q You really didn't tell us anything.

MR. NESSEN: I said when the decisions are made they will be announced.

Q Yes. You could have told us that on the plane yesterday.

MR. NESSEN: I always like to check.

Q Is there some reason why the President doesn't want to discuss his plans in any way?

MR. NESSEN: I think I said no firm decisions on his future plans. If he had not made any firm decisions, I don't see how we can announce firm decisions.

Q I know. We went around about this on the plane, too. A firm decision suggests a final decision. For example, can you give us any better guidance?

MR. NESSEN: On semi-final decision? I don't have anything on semi-final or even quarter-final to announce.

Q Why do you find it all so facetious?

MR. NESSEN. You asked me to ask the President about his plans. I asked him about his plans. I read to you what he has to say about his plans today and that is where it stands.

Q Can you give us any better guidance on his feelings about Palm Springs?

MR. NESSEN. No.

Q Ron, in your discussion with the President this morning on his future plans, did you ask him whether his house in Alexandria was up for sale?

MR. NESSEN. I said no firm decisions had been made.

Q My question was did you ask him whether the house was up for sale?

MR. NESSEN. The house is not up for sale.

Q Will it be up for sale in the immediate future?

MR. NESSEN. How far ahead is the immediate future, Dick?

Q We are told, I think by fairly reliable officials within the White House, that he does not plan to move back into that house.

MR. NESSEN. No firm decisions have been made, Dick.

Q Did you ask him where he plans to spend the night of January 20th?

MR. NESSEN. No, I didn't. He will find a place.

Q Have you heard the President say anything about how the transition is going so far? Does he think it is going well? Has he seen any snags? Has he commented at all about it?

MR. NESSEN. No. He has not commented on it. But from my own observation it is going smoothly and in accordance with the President's wishes that it be smooth.

Q Has he been involved in the transition process at all?

MR. NESSEN. He has given certainly direction to the people and you remember some of his remarks at the Cabinet meeting before we left for Palm Springs. He does now have a meeting with the President-elect.

Q In short, is the answer no?

MR. NESSEN. I forgot what the question was.

Q The question was has he been involved at all in the transition process?

MR. NESSEN. I just told you what his involvement was --

Q Apart from the direction that he gave at the Cabinet meeting, since then he has had no involvement?

MR. NESSEN. -- in the meeting with Mr. Carter coming up.

Q Since then he has had no --

MR. NESSEN. I have told you his involvement.

Q On the meeting with Carter, is that going to be at Mr. Carter's convenience or is the President -- why hasn't a date been set, I guess, is the question.

MR. NESSEN. The details are just still being worked out. We will get a date for you. It will be early next week, early in the week.

Q There will be another phone call between the two men to work out a date; is that correct?

MR. NESSEN. Between the men or their aides.

Q Is there going to be a series of meetings between now and the Inauguration or is that the only meeting?

MR. NESSEN. I indicated about half an hour ago that this is the only meeting scheduled so far.

Q Ron, back on the Lever meeting, can you say who else is sitting in there today?

MR. NESSEN. I will get a briefing paper on that. I will check for you.

Q Ron, on the White House staff, how many of the White House staff have now got jobs after January 20th and is there any effort on the part of the Administration to help with placement?

MR. NESSEN. I don't know how many people have jobs.

Q Do you know of any that have gotten jobs?

MR. NESSEN. I haven't really tracked on it that much.

Q Is there anything being done to help people on the White House staff get jobs? Is there any personnel agency? It is at hand, Ron. I just wonder, do you know if anything is being done to help these people?

MR. NESSEN. If somebody hears of something that they are not interested in, they pass it on to somebody they think might be interested in it.

Q Besides that, the White House is doing nothing to help all of this staff get jobs? Is that what you are saying?

MR. NESSEN. I will have to check. I have been away this past week. I don't know of an organized employment service that is being run here, but I will check.

Q Ron, would you ask Jody Powell if he would come out here and talk to us?

MR. NESSEN. I said earlier I would.

Q Do you have any plan to take Jody in to see the President today?

MR. NESSEN. No.

Q Has a decision been made by the President on whether to pursue negotiations with the Soviet Union on a SALT treaty between now and January 20th or has the President decided to let that fall into the lap of the next Administration?

MR. NESSEN. No. As I have said before, and the President has said fairly often, he is the President until January 20th at noon. He has the responsibility and he is going to push ahead with it, with that and other foreign policy matters, as well as his budget and other things.

Q My question was has the President made a conscious decision to try to conclude a treaty between now and the 20th or has he decided that that is out of the question and that that is a matter best left to the next Administration?

MR. NESSEN. I don't think it is a conscious decision, Walt, other than the conscious decision that has already been made which is that there is no timetable on that. It will be concluded as soon as it is possible to conclude it on terms that are in our best interests.

Q Then the question is, does the President think it is realistically possible to conclude a SALT treaty with the Soviet Union between now and when he goes out of office?

MR. NESSEN. I would rather not answer that question.

Q Would you ask him the question so we can ask it tomorrow because it is one of the unfinished matters of foreign policy which will either be finished or will be left dangling for the new President.

MR. NESSEN. Yes, all right, I will ask him.

Q Can you tell us in any general framework just what it is that the President and the President-elect are going to do next week when they meet?

MR. NESSEN. Probably shake hands, say "How are you. Come in. Have a seat."

Q You said they spoke about seven minutes. Can you give us any broad areas that they are discussing?

MR. NESSEN. I will try to help you once the meeting is held, Dick.

Q Will there just be the two of them as far as you know?

MR. NESSEN. I would expect the meeting might come in various parts, some with staff and some without.

Q Is there any indication of how long you would expect this kind of meeting to run?

MR. NESSEN. No. I will give you the details when I get them.

Q In other words, will the meeting be just under the broad umbrella of transition discussion?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q As part of the semi-final process of the President, does he expect to spend Christmas in Vail, Colorado?

MR. NESSEN. Yes.

Q Ron, one thing I would like to get cleared up. Did the decision to vote in this UN resolution criticizing Israel, was that initiated by the President or did Dr. Kissinger suggest this and the President approved it?

MR. NESSEN. Just to reiterate, Les, it does not differ from our position in the past.

Q I know. That isn't an answer to my question. Can you tell me?

MR. NESSEN. A foreign policy decision of that importance obviously would be approved by the President.

Q It was approved by the President, not initiated, but approved? Right?

MR. NESSEN. I don't know what you mean by initiated.

Q Did Dr. Kissinger suggest this to the President and he approved it or did the President say, "Dr. Kissinger, will you do this?" Who initiated it? Was it Dr. Kissinger or the President?

MR. NESSEN. I think the matter was coming to a vote in the UN. It wasn't a question of who initiated the vote. The decision to vote for that resolution was the President's decision.

Q Will we have a photo opportunity in the budget meeting this afternoon?

MR. NESSEN. I don't see why not.

THE PRESS. Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 12:05 P.M. EST)