TelCon
Charge de'Affaire, Australia, Fernandez
Mr. Kissinger
3:25, December 20, 1972

K: Hello!

F: Fernandez speaking.

K: Yes, we met in Saigon a generation ago.

F: Yes.

K: About the letter of your Prime Minister. I don't know how I can tactfully convey something which we don't want to have officially recorded, is that possible?

F: I think so.

K: If you could convey that we are not particularly amused being put by an ally on the same level as our enemy and to have Ethan appeal equally addressed to us in North Vietnam, I must tell you it's not the way to start a relationship with us.

F: Yes.

K: And, if that should become public it must have great consequences for our relationship. I mean it's one thing to have serious negotiations, but it's another to organize a group of countries to make a joint appeal to us in North Vietnam.

F: Yes. I get your point.

K: So, I don't think we are going to reply to this message. I've just talked to the President about it.

F: Yes.

K: But we still hope to have the closest relationships with your government. But, this is not an official communication.

F: Yep, yes. My best way of communicating it would be to the head of Skeef Walla (?sp), through him by letter rather than by cable. Unless you would prefer me to get something off--

K: No, no, I don't suppose there's an enormous urgency about it. But if you can do anything, if you can express as your own personal opinion that such an act taken publicly would really not have very good consequences.
F: Yes. We have in fact, possibly this morning, did say some of these things in a cable to Kenbrook.

K: You know there can be no doubt that this President has his own political difficulties.

F: Yes.

K: And it can do no conceivable good to make such an appeal.

F: Yes.

K: There can't be any doubt that we want an agreement.

F: Yes.

K: Okay.

F: Okay, I'll get this back for sure, Dr. Kissinger.

K: Good, thank you.

F: Goodbye.

K: Bye.