

Telcon  
Bernard Gwertzman/HAK  
July 31, 1973; 9:50 a.m.

K: I just wanted -- not a major point -- but since the folklore tends to get established in Washington I wanted to get the record straight on the Australian visit. This was not something imposed on the White House either by Whitlam announcing he was coming, much less by the State Department insisting on it. What happened was that his Assistant Walinsky was here on May 2 and we told him then that the President would see Whitlam when Whitlam came to the Prime Ministers conference in Ottawa, and that we would ~~of course~~ work out the date either just before or just after that conference, and Walinsky gave us three sets of dates and it was at the Australian request that it wasn't announced until it was announced early in July. There was no intervention on the part of the State Department whatsoever. We agreed on it May 2. The future of this Administration doesn't depend on whether the State Department arranges the Whitlam visit.

G: I should have anticipated that.

K: I would be glad to play my tape for you. (laughter)

G: Did you get Clifton Daniels' letter?

K: Yes, I did. I am considering it, particularly if I don't have to do it on the record.

G: The genesis of that letter was that the editors saw you were on the record with the news magazines and said ~~you~~ we have never had the good Doctor on the record in the New York Times.

K: The Newsweek one you should ask Mel Elfin about.

G: Was it then his \_\_\_\_\_?

K: More a \_\_\_\_\_, but it was never intended that way.

G: Conspiratorial minds thought you were loosing a campaign.

K: Hugh Sidey was calling me about something and he talked to me and said, gee, I want to write this and I agreed with him provided he made clear that he had the interview, which he did not do. Anyway I thought it was a backgrounder on the Year of Europe. Ask Mel Elfin. It was one of the unhappy experiences I have had with journalistic efforts. It wasn't a campaign.

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- G: I don't have that impression, but other people thought it was.
- K: Will you reassure them on that?
- G: I think you have some things to say that are better on the record. Have you got Iran's agreement for this ICCS?
- K: Yes, but don't attribute that to me. But on that Australian thing, it is not a world-shaking event.
- G: I will probably be getting into it again on Sunday.
- K: If you get into it, it was really something we had planned to do.
- G: I am sorry I did not get you yesterday about this, but this was based on things I had read rather than what people had told me, but I got the impression people in the bureaucracy were claiming credit for things they had done. Why do you want to be Secretary of State?
- K: So I can claim that I first...the White House... I can say I don't want something that hasn't been offered to me.
- G: At the State Department they say you would be crazy to come over but they would love to have you because they think they would get more of the action and they think you would like it because it would cap off your career, and I ask my friends what is so impressive about being Secretary of State in the Nixon Administration?
- K: Everyone is fighting for the number two oar in the lifeboat.
- G: On the Iran thing, has it been cleared?
- K: That is not a quotation to use.
- G: I won't. Has Iran been cleared with other members of the ICCS. All I can say is the Iran thing awaits final clearance.
- K: That is right. Exactly.
- G: All right. Thank you. Goodbye.

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