

Date: February 27, 1971
Time: 9:35 am - 11:57 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Alexander P. Butterfield and H. R. (ABob≅) Haldeman

The President=s schedule

- Astronaut dinner
 - Attendance
 - Guest list
 - Social Office
- Ronald L. Ziegler=s view
 - President=s role
- Tricia Nixon
- Julie Nixon Eisenhower
- East Room
- Seating arrangements
 - The President
 - Astronauts
 - The Vice President
 - William P. Rogers
 - John B. Connally
 - Dr. Edward E. David, Jr.
 - David Packard
- William L. Safire
 - Hole-in-One Club
 - Alan B. Shepard, Jr.
- Awards
 - President=s view
- The President=s remarks
- Citations
 - William A. Anders
 - The Vice President
- Children
- Camp Hoover
 - Butterfield
 - Peter M. Flanigan=s visit
 - Robert H. Finch
 - Condition of camp
 - Furniture
 - Possible visit by the President
 - Major General James D. (ADon≅) Hughes
 - Possible visit by the President
 - Difficulties

Butterfield left at an unknown time after 9:35 am

-Florida trip

- Thelma C. (Ryan) (APat≅) Nixon
- Camp David
 - Upcoming schedule
- Trip to Florida
 - Weather

Butterfield entered at an unknown time after 9:35 am

Conv. No. 459-2 (cont.)

- Hughes= report on Camp Hoover
 - Recommendation

Butterfield left at an unknown time before 9:46 am

- Weekend activities
 - Church
 - Camp David
 - Florida
 - Forthcoming trip
 - Camp David
 - Presidential work schedule
 - Forthcoming National Security Council [NSC] meeting
- Victor Lasky
 - Interview with the President
 - Book
 - Lasky=s research
 - Proposed interview with the President
 - Questions
- Fiftieth anniversary of *Reader=s Digest*
 - Possible White House dinner
 - DeWitt Wallace
 - Announcement
 - Lila (Acheson) Wallace
 - Attitudes
 - Arrangements

Butterfield entered at 9:46 am

Morning schedule

Henry A. Kissinger entered and Haldeman and Butterfield left at 9:47 am

Laos (Lam Son)

- Military situation
 - Army of the Republic of Vietnam [ARVN]
- Briefing
- Attitudes of military
- General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
 - ARVN airborne forces
 - Strategy
- ARVN military

- North Vietnamese forces
- Kissinger=s assessment
- News reports
- Kissinger=s meeting with Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
 - Soviet position
 - North Vietnam
 - Soviet view of Cambodia and Laos operations
- Cambodian operation
 - Reports
 - ARVN
 - North Vietnamese casualties

An unknown woman entered at an unknown time after 9:47 am

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

[National Security]

[Duration: 2m 20s]

MIDDLE EAST

The unknown woman left at an unknown time before 10:06 am

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

Laos (Lam Son)

- Marines
 - Reinforcement
 - Airborne forces
 - Tactical movement
- Supply routes
- Military situation
- Strategy
 - Supply routes
 - Tchepone
 - ARVN forces
 - Timing
- President=s view
 - North Vietnamese supply routes
 - Rationale
- Casualties
 - North Vietnamese
 - B-52 Strikes

- Tactical proposals
- Future prospects for success
 - ARVN
- Media coverage
 - October 7th speech
 - John D. Ehrlichman
 - James B. (AScotty≅) Reston
 - Democratic briefings
 - Kissinger=s forthcoming conversation with Reston

[The President talked with Haldeman at an unknown time between 9:47 am and 10:06 am]

[Conversation No. 459-2A]

- Ehrlichman=s call to Reston

[End of telephone conversation]

- Reston=s reaction to Laos operation
 - Kissinger=s previous conversation with Reston
 - Cambodia
 - The President=s policy
 - Reaction of European press
 - Henry Brandon
 - Media coverage
 - Kissinger=s view

Haldeman entered at an unknown time after 9:47 am

The President=s schedule

- John N. Mitchell
- Florida
 - Des Moines
 - Charles G. (ABebe≅) Rebozo
 - Weather in Florida
 - The President=s decision

Haldeman left at an unknown time before 10:06 am

Stephen B. Bull entered at an unknown time after 9:47 am

Schedule

- Forthcoming NSC meeting
 - Melvin R. Laird
 - Joseph J. Sisco
 - Rogers
 - Richard M. Helms
 - General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Bull left at an unknown time before 10:06 am

-Television

Laird, Helms, Sisco, Rogers, and Haig entered at 10:06 am

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

[National Security]

[Duration: 1h 14m 39s]

MIDDLE EAST

An unknown person entered at an unknown time after 10:06 am

The unknown person left at an unknown time before 11:21 am

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer and Lieutenant Colonel Walter B. Ratliffe entered and Sisco left at 11:21 am

Laos (Lam Son) operation

-Previous briefings

-Status

-Congress

-Rogers

-The President=s forthcoming television appearance

-Rogers= forthcoming press conference

-Strategy

-US policy

-Public relations

-Abrams

-Rogers

Cambodia (Chub) operation

-Military situation

-Casualties

-Goals

-Death of General Do Cao Tri

-Effect on South Vietnamese forces

-Military operations

-General Thomas J. (AStonewall≅) Jackson

- Gettysburg
- Importance of leadership

Laos (Lam Son)

- Military situation
- Strategy
- Military operations
 - Ground forces
 - Bombing
- North Vietnamese forces
 - Casualties
- Tank Fight
- South Vietnamese [ARVN] forces
 - Military situation
 - Casualties
- Military operations
- Abrams= plan
 - Airborne troops
 - Marines
 - ARVN reserves
 - Laird=s view
- North Vietnamese strategy
 - Troop movements
 - Effect on US strategy
 - General Vo Nguyen Giap
- US Air Force bombing
 - North Vietnam headquarters
 - Command centers
 - Problems
- Intelligence
 - President=s view
 - Helms= response
 - Press accounts
- Abrams
 - Unknown ARVN general
- Ho Chi Minh Trail
 - Decrease in North Vietnamese use
 - Supplies
 - Effect on Lam Son operation
 - Routes
 - Moorer=s assessment
 - President=s view
 - Need for public relations
 - Intelligence
 - Goals of Lam Son operation
- ARVN forces

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3

[National Security]

[Duration: 5s]

LAM SON

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3

- Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]
 - US strategy
 - North Vietnamese troop strength
 - American troop strength
- Khe Sanh
 - US troop strength
 - Estimates
 - Roles
- US strategy
 - Effect on North Vietnamese forces
 - Marines
 - Central Intelligence Agency [CIA]
 - Defense Intelligence Agency [DIA]
- Infantry role
 - Press account
 - Search and rescue missions
 - Rogers
 - John Sherman Cooper
 - Search and rescue missions
 - Son Tay mission
 - Administration position
 - Press accounts
 - Department of Defense briefing
 - Jerry W. Friedheim
- Press briefing
 - Ziegler
 - Questions and responses
 - Administration position
 - Vietnam policy
 - President=s previous experiences
 - Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - Middle East
 - Relations with press corps
 - President=s position
 - Ziegler=s role
 - Answers to questions on Lam Son
 - Goal of press corps

- President=s view
- Abrams
 - Responses to questions
 - Importance of public relations
- Theodore S. (ATed≅) Williams
 - Relations with press
 - Denny D. McLain
- Need for objective coverage
 - President=s position
- Rogers= view
- Laos
 - Abrams
 - ARVN
 - Need for victory
 - Terrain
 - Prisoners
 - Casualties
 - South Vietnamese morale
 - North Vietnamese morale
 - Laird=s trip

Press conferences

- Ziegler
- Methods of handling
 - President=s position
 - Responses to questions

Laos (Lam Son)

- Objectives
 - Changes
 - Tchepone
 - Ho Chi Minh Trail
 - North Vietnamese supplies
 - Decrease
- Media coverage
 - Laird/Kissinger Experience

Farewells

Instructions to Moorer

- Abrams
 - Report

Kissinger, et al. left at 11:57 am