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TELECON

The Secretary/Gen. Scowcroft
10/25/76 10:19 am

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K: How are we doing?

S: All right I guess.

K: I am impressed by the perceptiveness in a campaign where a candidate who is behind stops giving reasons to people to move over to him.

S: You think he ought to hit Carter?

K: With the third debate, it didn't gain us any votes. The strategy for the third should have been the strategy for the second. If Carter is a statesman, we are a statesman, if he is nasty, we are nasty. We are never a contrast to him. The time for us to have been statesmanlike was when Carter was running around screaming. Every poll -- the majority is for Carter -- there has got to be a reason for them to switch.

S: Yeah. I thought you were a little reluctant to have him on the attack.

K: I didn't want him to be strident but I wanted him to be sharp. I don't want him to do that chicken shit stuff. He has never made my point about war and peace. And it is also ridiculous that I am way out in front of him on Yugoslavia.

S: Yeah, but I thought after we talked you didn't want him to.

K: What are you talking about. Certainly I want him to hit it sharply.

S: Cheney is afraid that the President will over speak. That is what he is afraid of.

K: Look, I don't give a good god damn -- I think this campaign is lost.

S: He is going to be speaking in Pittsburgh. There is a speech draft that is just coming out here to us now.

K: Are we doing the non-proliferation thing?

S: I think tomorrow. I will let you know.

K: I think it should be issued in Washington.

S: I think that is true. Because we are not equipped to deal with it on the plane.



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K: Of course it is a total absurdity that we have waited this long. Any thing else?

S: No, he has had enthusiastic receptions out here.

K: Why didn't Reagan do anything?

S: I don't know. Reagan was supposedly giving speeches.

K: Did they ask him to appear with the President? I doubt it.

S: Probably not. He has had John Wayne and people like that here.

K: Do they think they have a chance?

S: Yes, they think they will take California. New York is a real problem now that McCarthy's off. I don't see how they can take it. They think they can do it.

K: Well, I pray they will

S: Well, I think it is fairly clear that he has got the momentum back.

K: If he has lost, it was in the second debate.

S: Yeah, that is clear. He seems to have gotten that back now. Okay, I will talk to you as soon as I hear about non-proliferation.

K: Good.