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SJ 324 *

TELECON

The Secretary/Hugh Sidey
9/10/76 7:33 pm

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(D), B6

S: You caught me right at my clams Rockefeller. This is very simple. They wanted it written in the usual fashion but they said last week that Hugh Sidey talked with Henry Kissinger who has had more contact with Mao than any other leader. Is that any problem?

K: No, that is no problem

B1

S: No, none of that. (reads from article)

K: I made nine trips to China if you want to be correct.

S: Where did we get six? Oh, I see -- you made six visits with Mao. (continues reading from article)

K: No, you cannot ascribe the physical appearance to me.

S: Okay, we will just take that out.

K: Or say you got that from others.

S: Okay, on down -- what about this quote you gave me? "Mao gave me the most cold blooded analysis of the world balance of power that I have ever heard. He analyzed countries and their leaders in terms of power."

K: This I would not do. That is an attack on him.

S: Is it?

K: Just say when speaking of the balance of power that despite his strong ideological convictions he analyzed the balance of power with amazing acuteness.

S: Okay. Then it says Mao's capacity to admire people was severely limited. Is that too much of a knock.

K: Yes. The Chinese don't like you to say anything about their leaders. Don't ascribe any of that to me.

S: But then we say he seemed to admire Richard Nixon.

K: "respect" but don't ascribe that to me.

S: He grilled Kissinger about American politics.

K: I would say he grilled visitors. The less you can ascribe to me the better off I am.

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S: Okay. Mao was frank that he wanted to see Nixon re-elected and McGovern defeated. Then he did not understand why we pulled out of Vietnam with only a loss of 50,000 men. If Vietnam was a mystery -- Watergate was also one. He thought that any government that allowed such a thing to happen must be soft.

K: But I think on the whole you can bring me in a few times but don't center it around me. It is just too dangerous.

S: Okay. His talk about the Soviets was uncompromising.

K: Again, don't ascribe that to me.

S: Mao believed that there will be ultimately a world war. The Chinese with their small farms would emerge a dominant power. Mao never talked like an imperialist. He expressed no material vision of China's future. What about this one -- Mao was a divinity - I don't believe he had any personal friends.

K: You can say he was treated like a divinity.

S: Okay. In all the hours of talk he never mentioned his wife.

K: I think you should write this as if its a composite of various views. Because the Chinese may be very nervous right now.

S: Okay. Then in his last meeting with you Mao talked about being called by God. I think we printed that before.

K: We did?

S: Yeah and then you kidded him that if the two ever got together -- Mao and God -- that would be too difficult a combination.

K: Really, our foreign policy could be effected by this. Please separate the rest of the stuff and not write it all around me.

S: Okay, we haven't had any problems

K: Did you do that one?

S: Yeah.

K: It took me a long time to get out of that one. okay. Thank you.

B6