

Telecon
Normal Cousins
9:25 a.m. 9/2/69

K said he had discussed Cousins trip with the President. K's concern was that this is an unofficial trip and would have to be disavowable. Cousins fully understood this. K said we could make it clear as soon as we see what the results would be.

Cousins suggested that the President issue a private letter explaining the hope that both sides will meet to negotiate. This would give him a clearance to proceed. K said the problem is that the President is willing to proceed but he doesn't want to put it in writing. Cousins said he (K) could advise him what to say and he would stay within the guidelines. K said we would like to see negotiations started and we would like to do what we can to bring it about. We don't want to make an official move until we see some progress.

Cousins asked him to review the paper with the talking points he sent and if they were o.k., he would stay within those margins. K didn't disagree with the substance and thought they would be fine. He mentioned again that the President didn't want letters (unofficial) floating around in case something should happen to Cousins. We would make it official as soon as there is an area to agree upon. We don't know what the results will be. This way we don't have to put it into formal channels.

Cousins said he would be discrete and would follow his talking points.