October 5, 1971 8:56 – 9:02 am

Conversation No. 10-40 Cassette No. 1047 White House Telephone

[Conversation with William P. Rogers, Secretary of State]

Nixon: Now the other thing that you might do is this – that you might – I had this as another note I want to talk to you about . . . The Latin American thing concerns me – well, the African thing doesn't 'cause there's just too much to do over there. You've been there and you agree. But Latin America - nobody's been there, you know? And, ah - I have a, I really do have a special feeling for those people. Not only because they're close but also because they're damn good people. I mean, whether they're dictators or whatever they are – they want to be with us. Now, you know we talked once about the possibility of going to some place for a heads-of-states meeting or something like that. I don't know whether that's in the cards with, uh - I mean with some of them not speaking to each other, but it might be.

Rogers: It's a possibility

Nixon: But, you remember Eisenhower went to the Panama heads-of-state meeting . . .

Rogers: That's right.

Nixon: ... and we really ought to do – particularly with the two that are coming up now – this thing, I mean particularly the China and the Russia thing – and you know Japan in the wings after China.

Rogers: That's right.

Nixon: Latin America would – and we're doing Canada of course, and I've done Mexico. But Latin America really ought to have something done.

Rogers: I can check around and see what we have coming up.

Nixon: On the presidential side - I don't...as far as time ... I mean you might – you know, just a little attention to those people is terrific, see?

Rogers: That's right.

Nixon: Well you look into it. And what I was thinking was maybe not a grand tour, we haven't done that any place, but you might go to a rather safe city some place ... there must be one down there. [Both Rogers and Nixon laugh] Well, maybe in Paraguay. Stroessner's pretty tough. Okay?

Rogers: All right Mr. President

Nixon: All right.

Rogers: All right, thanks very much for calling.

Nixon: Bye.