

***This is an excellent resource for anyone researching Henry Kissinger's war crimes.[]
Lots of links to further information can be accessed by going to the original article.***

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President Ford discusses the evacuation of Saigon with Henry Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft, late at night on 28 April 1975, with First Lady Betty Ford looking on (copy from the collections of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Image A4233-07A)

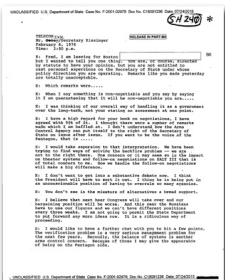
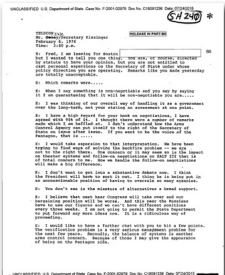
Washington, D.C., August 19, 2015 – President Gerald Ford was "offended" and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger "almost blind with rage" over Israeli negotiating behavior in 1975, according to newly released Kissinger telephone transcripts obtained through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit and posted today by the [National Security Archive](#).

The 905 telcons released in full contain highest-level verbatim conversations between Kissinger and a wide range of officials and journalists about the evacuation of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War, the crisis in Cyprus, Middle East negotiations, revelations of CIA misdeeds, Ronald Reagan's challenge to Ford in the 1976 primaries, and other topics, along with candid remarks never meant for public view about personalities ranging from Donald Rumsfeld to then CIA Director William Colby. About Colby's cooperation with Congressional investigations into the CIA, Kissinger commented, "You accuse him of a traffic violation, and he confesses murder."

The State Department released the new telcons only after the Archive brought a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit challenging the Department's eight-year delay in processing the Archive's appeal for the documents. Previously, Archive legal action in 2001 had convinced State to recover the telcons from the Library of Congress, where Kissinger had placed them under seal until five years after his death. The Archive has obtained and published more than 15,000 of the telephone transcripts through the ProQuest subscription series, the Digital National Security Archive, and these 900+ were the last remaining unreleased.

During an interval between meetings in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in June 1975, President Gerald R. Ford told Secretary of State Henry Kissinger over the telephone that he had been "offended" by Rabin's attitude during negotiations over the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula. Kissinger agreed that the "way in which he treated us was outrageous." In an earlier telephone conversation, Kissinger and Under Secretary of State Joseph Sisco agreed that Ford had "handled" the matter "admirably" with the Israeli officials because it was clear the President "doesn't like them anymore." The two State Department officials also shared the view that the Israeli leadership "was very difficult to like at this point."

The exasperated comments by Ford, Kissinger, and Sisco reflected tensions in U.S.-Israeli relations during mid-1975; Kissinger had been using "shuttle diplomacy" to facilitate the further disengagement of Israeli forces from Egyptian territory in the Sinai, but the talks had stalled mainly due to Israeli opposition. While some would argue U.S.-Israeli relations have reached their nadir over the recent Iran nuclear negotiations, evidence from the not-too-distant past is a useful reminder that even during Republican administrations the ties between the two countries have sometimes frayed.



Notes

[1] . For the content of the “Family Jewels” and their creation, see John Prados, *The Family Jewels: the CIA, Secrecy, and Presidential Power* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013), 12-59, 65-79, 113-121, and 139-175

[2] . For background, see William Quandt, *Peace Process: American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1967* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 2001), 162-171. For an early account, based on inside information, of the acrimony in U.S.-Israeli relations during this period, see Matii Golan, *The Secret Conversations of Henry Kissinger: Step-by-Step Diplomacy in the Middle East* (New York: Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Company, 1976).

[3] . For a useful account see Walter Isaacson, *Kissinger: A Biography* (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1992), 669-671.