

Nixon Talks With Colonel; Calls the Release 'Moving'

NYTimes

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON FEB 13 1973

Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Feb. 12—President Nixon spoke today by telephone to one of the released American prisoners of war at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, then through his press secretary described the experience as "one of the most moving" he had ever had in the White House.

The four-minute telephone conversation with Col. Robinson Risner of the Air Force was described by Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, on the front steps of the President's California office a few hours before Mr. Nixon returned to Washington.

Mr. Ziegler reported that during the conversation, Colonel Risner, an Oklahoma City man whose F-105 fighter-bomber was shot down on Sept. 16, 1965, said to Mr. Nixon, "All the men would like to meet you and thank you personally for what you've done."

"My time is yours on that point," the President was said to have responded. Mr. Ziegler added, however, that there were no immediate plans for Mr. Nixon to meet with the released prisoners.

Mr. Ziegler quoted Colonel Risner as having told Mr. Nixon that he spoke for "virtually all the prisoners of war" in saying that "you would have our support for as long as we live."

The press secretary said the President interpreted this as meaning that the men would support the Presidency rather than Mr. Nixon personally.

Mr. Ziegler also said that Mr. Nixon had told Colonel Risner: "The fact that you and the men have been through so much, nothing would mean more to me than to meet with you personally and express gratitude on behalf of myself and the American people for your sacrifice and for what you have done."

The President, Mr. Ziegler continued, then told the colonel that the most important thing now was for them to be reunited with their families and that a meeting could be worked out in the future.

Mr. Ziegler said that Colonel Risner had initiated the telephone contact from the Philippines. The President was informed by a military aide that he had called, and he returned the call 45 minutes later.

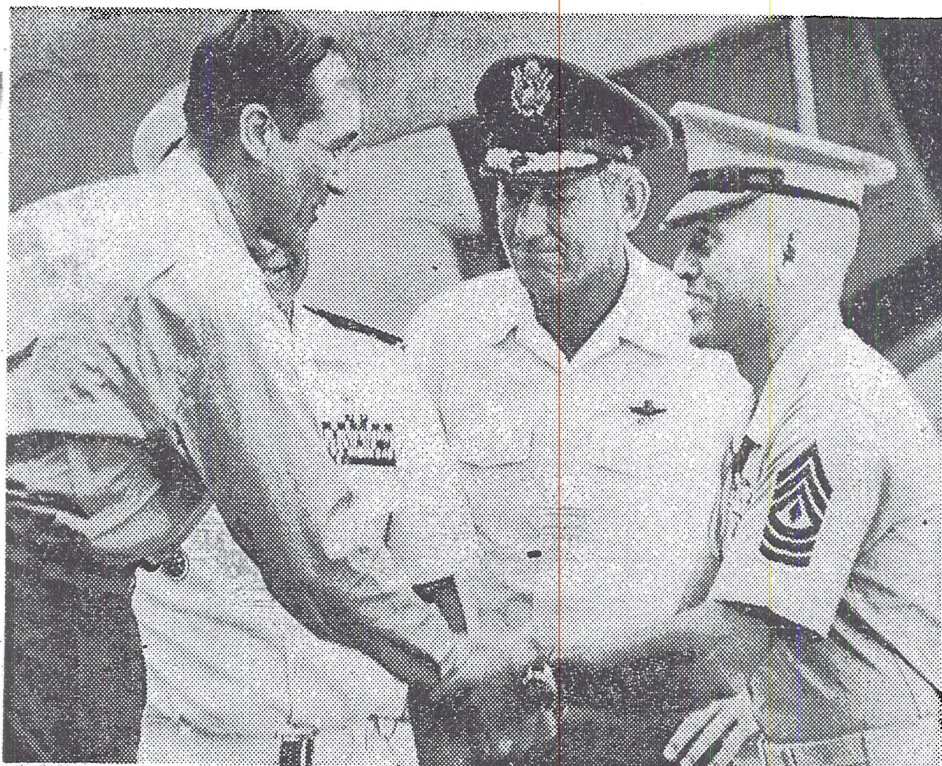
The press secretary added that Mr. Nixon had watched the return of the prisoners on television last night.

At an earlier briefing today, Mr. Ziegler said that Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, was still conducting talks with

North Vietnamese officials in Hanoi in a "cordial" atmosphere.

He added that Mr. Kissinger had conferred for two hours this morning with Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's negotiator at the private peace talks in Paris. Two additional meetings, each lasting two hours, were held later in the day between Mr. Kissinger and his aides and Premier Pham Van Dong and other North Vietnamese officials.

In the evening, Mr. Ziegler said, Mr. Kissinger attended a reception and a dinner given by the North Vietnamese Premier.



United Press International

Air Force Col. Robinson Risner of Oklahoma City shaking hands with First Sgt. Solomon Kalona Jr. at Clark Air Base. Lieut. Gen. William G. Moore Jr., commander of the 13th Air Force and senior officer of the Operation Homecoming reception center, is in the middle. Adm. Noel A. M. Gayler, Commander in Chief of the Pacific, is at left rear.