

INTERVIEW OF HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER BY
JACOBO ZABLUDOVSKI FOR MEXICAN TELEVISION,
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1974

MR. ZABLUDOVSKI: Well, you are a very busy
man.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Absolutely.

MR. ZABLUDOVSKI: Why did you suggest that the
energy crisis and the war situation shall be discussed
in the conference tomorrow in Mexico City?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We are trying to establish
a new pattern of relationships with our friends in
Latin America, which is that we consult with them on
problems of common concern. Now, I have been very
active in Middle East diplomacy and in other diplomacy.
And I thought that my colleagues from the western
hemisphere might like to hear about some of my
activities, and conversely I thought I could profit
from their views. Similarly in energy. It is a
big global problem. The United States constantly has
to make decisions. And again, I thought with all
my colleagues from the western hemisphere assembled, it
might be useful if I put before them some of our
considerations, and again get their views before we

take positions in other international forums. We did not put it forward in order to ask the other Foreign Ministers to take any position, and we will not ask them to take any position. This is to start a new style in our relationship and a new pattern of consultation.

Q In the next General Assembly of the United Nations, maybe it will be discussed President Echeverria's Document on Economic Rights and Obligations Between Countries. Will the United States support that document?

A Well, of course we have not yet seen the final document. In my speech to the General Assembly in September, I expressed the United States support for the concept. Our representative in Geneva is working very closely with the Mexican representative in order to bring about a reasonable solution that is fair to every point of view. And if the discussion goes the way we hope, then I am sure that there will emerge a document that will get support.

Q Doctor Kissinger, you travel very much, night and day. In some of your next trips, do you plan to make a stop in Havana?

A I will go to the Middle East next.

Q Well, do you foresee during --

A And then I will go to Acapulco, if I ever get away on vacation.

Q When will you be in Acapulco?

A Well, I had to change three dates already. I am now aiming for the middle of March.

Q Do you foresee during President Nixon's administration a change in Washington-Havana relations?

A Well, that remains to be seen. The first thing we now have to do is to change and improve the relationships within the western hemisphere with the other countries, and then we can consider that problem.

Q Some people criticize you because they say you solve things in a very personal way.

A Well, the major problem is how -- whether to get things solved and what should be debated is the result, not the method. I have established a relationship now with a number of leaders around the world which has made it more convenient to settle it on that basis. But what

we should be judged by is the results, not the method.

Q Dr. Kissinger, in problems such as the Middle East war -

A Besides, personal relations shouldn't offend Latins.

Q Oh, no, we are not offended by that. Maybe there are some other things -- I don't know. But not by your personal relations. We enjoy that.

A That is what I thought.

Q In problems such as the Middle East war, do you expect to foster a permanent peaceful agreement?

A Well, the next problem is to bring about a solution of the Israeli-Syrian separation of forces. That is what we will now put our energy on. And that will take a little time. But I hope we will be successful. But our objective is to get a permanent and just peace.

Q Well, some people feel that you are more popular abroad and in your country than President Nixon. Doesn't it make you feel --

A Well, first, I don't agree with that conclusion. And secondly, I do my job, and I can't worry about how people interpret it.

Q Does the Watergate scandal make more difficult to handle international affairs?

A Oh, I think that it has taken a lot of attention of people, and it has created a climate where there is a lot of press speculation constantly. So it has made it more irritating. But it has not affected our foreign policy.

Q Finally, Dr. Kissinger, what do you expect of the Latin American Conference?

A Well, first of all we are very grateful to Mexico for hosting the conference. And we think that it is a really very major initiative. I proposed a dialogue between the countries of the western hemisphere and the United States. And the Foreign Minister of Colombia then called a meeting in Bogota. We are negotiating not from an American agenda, but from an agenda that our friends have prepared. I believe very strongly that if there is going to be a world community, we first have to have a community in the western hemisphere. If we can't build it here, we can't build it anywhere. So we are going down there with a serious intention of starting a new relationship, and to discuss openly and candidly with our colleagues how we can do those things we should do together, without affecting the

sovereignty and independence of the countries concerned or their ability to conduct independent policies. So I think it could be a historic meeting. And I think it is very appropriate that it should meet in Mexico, especially for me, because I have so many memories of happy visits that I have had to Mexico.

Q Well, I hope you will have a good time there in Mexico.

A I always have had.

Q And a good trip.

A I look forward to it very much. I will see you down there.

Q I will see you. And thank you very much for this interview for the Mexican television.

A Thank you.

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