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Transcript of a Telephone Conversation Between President Nixon and the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs (Kissinger)

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[Omitted here is discussion unrelated to Chile.]

P: The only thing I see in the news is Chile, and I want to be tough with them. Have you seen this?

K: Yes, I've just seen it.

P: Are you preparing something to say? I will say something but I want you to have your staff—get Haig to, the toughest son of a bitch you've got, to work something up. It's time to kick Chile in the ass.

K: The only thing it was being held up for is the Comptroller General.

P: They have acted. Can you get a paper over to me?

K: I will have a paper.

P: I just want a strong statement knocking their brains out. What will we do?

K: We can cut off their credit.

P: I want a strong statement kicking Chile in the ass. Have Connally make it. Really blast their butts. And don't bring State into it. What are they doing?

K: They are probably wringing their hands, but they should say something too. I will call Connally this minute.

P: I want to over-act on this one and I expect State to tow the mark. They have confiscated American property and we won't allow it.

K: That you should say. We'll have a program by the end of the day.

P: I will know what to say, "appropriate action," but I want the strongest action on it and I want it highly publicized and highly visible, and I want it on TV today.

K: Tomorrow would be better.

P: Okay, tomorrow.

[Omitted here is a brief exchange unrelated to Chile.]