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# The Kissinger Transcripts: The Top Secret Talks with Beijing and Moscow

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# The Kissinger Transcripts: The Top Secret Talks with Beijing and Moscow

**The Kissinger Transcripts: The Top Secret Talks with Beijing and Moscow**
Brought to you by the Freedom of Information Act: Never-before-seen transcripts of Henry Kissinger's most sensitive conversations with world leaders. The Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon tapes fascinated and shocked Americans with their revelations of the real goings-on in the Oval Office. Now we have the unvarnished record of Henry Kissinger's high-stakes diplomacy during the world-shaping events of the Nixon years. Here are the transcripts, formerly classified "Top Secret / Sensitive / Exclusive Eyes Only," of Kissinger's talks with Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Leonid Brezhnev, Andrei Gromyko, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, George Bush, and others. When Henry Kissinger left the State Department in January 1977, he took with him his "personal papers" as well as copies of government papers he had worked on and reviews, and attempted to close off all access to them until five years after his death. However, transcripts of some of his most important conversations found their way into other files, where National Security Archive staffers tracked them down. These transcripts of Kissinger's conversations span the period of Nixon and Kissinger's greatest triumphs -- the opening of China culminating in Nixon's meeting with Mao Zedong in February 1972 and the success of the Nixon-Brezhnev Moscow summit in June of that year -- and most dramatic defeats -- Watergate and the decline of detente. The transcripts expand our understanding of Kissinger's diplomacy during that time -- and set the record straight. Far from the even-handed approach toward the USSR and the People's Republic of China depicted in Kissinger's public rhetoric, the Kissinger seen here is trying assiduously to curry favor with Mao and Zhou and to forge what he secretly characterized as a "tacit alliance" with Beijing. Revelations include the fact that Kissinger offered Zhou Enlai an intelligence hotline if the Soviets were ever poised to attack China, and that he provided Beijing with full accounts of his meetings with the Soviets. We also get a fly-on-the-wall perspective on Kissinger's talks with an often bemused Brezhnev on such issues as arms control, the Middle East, and Jewish emigration; and the first insider accounts ever of Kissinger's last meeting with Mao in 1975; US-Soviet clashes over Africa; the Salt II talks; and more. Supplementary materials include Kissinger's reports to President Nixon and US officials and his "back channel" cables from Beijing. The Kissinger Transcripts offers an unparalleled view of American diplomacy as conducted by one of the most controversial Secretaries of State in modern US history. With the record unmediated by Kissinger's spin, readers can begin to make up their own minds about the merits or flaws of a major effort to transform US Cold War strategy.

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