

Telecon
Secretary Laird
12/16/69 12:30 p. m.

[Omitted here is unrelated material.]

L: We've got to shut ACDA people up on the toxin thing. They are saying we don't consider toxins as chemicals. Everyone agrees they are chemicals. We aren't manufacturing them and we haven't manufactured them, but I don't want to come out and announce that.

K: Could you send over anything they have said and I'll slap them down.

L: The article in the Times came from them. We don't want to give away our negotiating position in advance. Even U Thant said toxins are chemicals. And when the U.N. is saying that and a 14-nation team is saying it, I don't know why we should take another position.

K: I'll get that article and take action.

L: I called just to keep in touch.

K: You've been terrific and everybody here appreciates it.