

~~TOP SECRET~~

Meeting began: 1:00 p. m.
Meeting ended: 2:05 p. m.

700

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS

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30 July 1968
In the Mansion

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NJ 91-336
By ~~129~~, NARA, Date 1-5-93

Attending the meeting were:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Taylor
General Wheeler

CIA Director Helms
George Christian
Bromley Smith (in Walt Rostow's
absence)
Tom Johnson

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The President: I want a report from General Taylor on the whole situation regarding this new wave of demands to stop the bombing and all of the facts about enemy activities and the level of fighting.

General Taylor: I will do that, sir.

The President: I believe the International Communists have a movement under way to get me to stop the bombing. What is the situation on infiltrators?

General Wheeler: As of July 24, there were:

- 28,400 infiltrators who started down in March
- 37,700 infiltrators who started down in April
- 30,600 infiltrators who started down in May
- 16,900 infiltrators who started down in June
- 14,200 infiltrators who started down in July

The President: What effect would a complete bombing halt have?

General Wheeler: It would permit 30% more troops and supplies to reach South Vietnam.

Secretary Rusk: It would add 50% to what is getting through now.

The President: Let's say that. I would like General Wheeler to summarize the reasons we should not stop the bombing.

General Wheeler: We have 120 miles of attack zone to hit enemy supplies now. We have had good luck, getting 30% of the traffic. This increment would move into the DMZ and up to the DMZ if the bombing stopped.

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General Wheeler: We have hit them hard in this area. There would be a loss of morale in the U. S. forces in the DMZ area. It gives the military a disadvantage.

The President: Give me a paper on it.

General Wheeler: The JCS does oppose a complete bombing pause.

Secretary Rusk: The Czech situation is going. Bohlen says the odds are 51 - 49 against the USSR using force. I think there are 60 - 40 odds against the USSR using force, but nobody knows what they will do.

Director Helms: They put out a list of items in Czechoslovakia today that people may not write about. I put it at 75 - 25 that the Soviets will not move.

Secretary Clifford: The Russian demands are tough.

Secretary Rusk: Bohlen feels these are "gut" issues.

The President: Put in the Kosygin letter that we agree to their suggestion of a meeting in a month or one and a half months. See if they will agree to the highest level, Prime Minister level, or people in Geneva.

I would like to see Bill Bundy for a report on his talks with the Allies.

Now, Bus, I read about all this offensive they plan for us. What are we doing?

General Wheeler: Abrams is trying to pre-empt their attacks. He is using B-52s to hit their staging areas. He wants U. S. commands to intercept these people.

Secretary Clifford: When we were in South Vietnam, we asked all U. S. field commanders if they have all the men, equipment, and supplies needed for any offensive. All field commanders said yes. Our men want them to go ahead with the offensive.

The President: I would like to see us knock the hell out of them.

General Taylor: Is it to our advantage to keep a third attack from coming out?

The President: Westmoreland said it is to our advantage for them to go ahead with the offensive.

Director Helms: It would permit us to concentrate against them in large numbers.