

MEETING NOTES  
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Meeting began: 1:30 p. m.  
Meeting ended: 3:50 p. m.

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65a

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT  
WITH HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS  
AT LUNCH

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July 24, 1968  
In the Mansion 2nd Floor

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Attending the meeting were:

The President  
Secretary Rusk  
Secretary Clifford  
General Maxwell Taylor  
General Earle Wheeler

CIA Director Helms  
Walt Rostow  
George Christian  
Tom Johnson

The President: I want to sit down with Mr. Nixon to see what kind of world he really wants. When he gets the nomination he may be more responsible. He says he is for our position in Vietnam. He thinks Democrats will go the other way.

What should we do about the Democratic platform on Vietnam? Senator Mansfield rejects the "straws in the wind" statements.

The GOP may be of more help to us than the Democrats in the last few months.

Secretary Clifford: Ike said he would be glad to see me.

The President: Eisenhower has helped me in every critical thing I have asked him to help on. You would be good to talk with him.

Secretary Clifford: On the '70 budget we have been examining our assumptions. We had assumed the war would continue at the same level. You can't cut down without it leaking.

The President: The situation seems like they are taking advantage of our restraint.

Secretary Clifford: Every B-52 flight costs [redacted] \$48,000 from Guam.

The bombs cost \$31,000. I hope the targets are worth it.

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NUJ 82-31

By [redacted] NARA Date [redacted]

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General Wheeler: The commanders swear by them.

Secretary Rusk: I am for the use of equipment rather than men.

Secretary Clifford: \$1.2 billion will be spent in the B-52 program alone.

The President: Any comment on Paris?

Secretary Rusk: Hanoi is considering it.

The President: How did we come out with Honolulu?

Secretary Rusk: Pluses in Saigon. I was pleased with the conference.

The President: Chal Roberts built up false hopes.

Secretary Rusk: Nobody in our department thought the conference was anything other than Walt Rostow's backgrounder over here. said it was.

The President: Study Mansfield's letter and draft a reply.

The Czechoslovakian situation

Mr. Rostow: The Soviets will not move militarily against them, I do not think. I told House we are on the Czech side.

We should hold off on "Most Favored Nations" legislation in order not to cause a problem for the Czechs.

The continuing resolution - what does it do to DoD, Foreign Aid, Foreign Policy things. See what kind of resolution they will get.

Draft agreements on German nuclear consultations.

Secretary Clifford: We have letters between the President and the German Chancellor.

Secretary Rusk: This is an unavoidable step. We do not have any understanding with the Germans on this. This is in the right direction.

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COPY TO [unclear]

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Secretary Clifford: I had hoped this might go away. I hoped we could maintain current establishment.

The President: Why do they require it now?

Mr. Rostow: Nuclear weapons were a toy, up until recent years.

The President: This is a good letter, well written.

Secretary Rusk: We saw the Czech situation as nearly over. The real crisis has subsided. We don't want to spoil the deal.

The President: Are you satisfied with our posture?

Belgian Tank Deal

Secretary Rusk: We should go ahead on that.

The President: O.K., go ahead with that. [REDACTED]

(A)(4)

Director Helms: We'll have to see the reply to your letter.

Geneva Disarmament Talks

Secretary Rusk: You couldn't get 20 votes for the offensive test ban treaty. Cutoff of fissionable material for peaceful purposes. [REDACTED]

(A)(4)

General Wheeler: I agree with what Dean Rusk has said. Security would be jeopardized by this.

I have no problem with what Dean says.

Secretary Rusk: We need to avoid public posture of pulling back from test ban.

General Wheeler: The fissionable material report has never been circulated.

Secretary Rusk: We need Senator Russell to go along with us on the Symington amendment.

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