

7

March 10, 1970

Memorandum of conversation

\* \*  
Bill Gill of ABC called from Washington. He said, "Off the record and very privately, Tom, I want you to know that I plan to carry a story on tonight's show which is indirectly tied to the publication today of a book by Phil\*Goulding. Goulding paints McNamara as the hero of the bombing pause, then goes on to tell how Clifford championed the battle for the President's mind during March after McNamara left. My story is very simple, and came from sources here ~~in~~ Washington--not from any conversations with President Johnson or his people in Texas. That story is that Secretary\*Rusk, in a meeting on Feb. 27, in the presence of Rustow, Bundy, Califano and others first suggested the bombing halt. I am not asking you for any comment or any denial. My purpose in calling is only to say: 1. this is planned for this evening and 2. how's the boss? I'm sorry I could not get back down there, but duties in Washington prevented it. I hope you will tell him that Mitzie and I are thinking of him."

TJohnson

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES  
**TRAVEL** Wash - NY  
DEC 1969

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES  
Courtesy Letters

Dear Bob:

Lady Bird and I so much enjoyed seeing you in New York. The party at the Krim's and the fun afterward with our friends gave us a heart full of memories. We're delighted you were a part of them.

We send warmest regards.

Sincerely,

*LBJ (iv)*

Honorable Robert S. McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

December 15, 1969

LBJ:BT

Monday, July 14, 1969

Mr. President:

You will be interested in the attached note from  
Bob McNamara to Walt Rostow.

(T)

Tom Johnson



INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR  
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20433, U.S.A.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 9, 1969

Dear Walt:

I was shocked to read of some of the disclosures made by members of the Administration to Teddy White and reported by him in his book. I thought you might like to see the kind of questions he referred to me and the answer I gave.

You may wish to show this note to the President. Don't hesitate to do so.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob", is written above the printed name.

Robert S. McNamara

Dr. Walt W. Rostow  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78712

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly "J", is written below the printed name of Robert S. McNamara.

October 10, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

In response to the questions Theodore White raised in the attached letter, I told him I could not discuss any of my recommendations to the President or his decisions in respect to them.

Robert S. McNamara

October 3, 1968

Mr. Robert S. McNamara,  
The World Bank,  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

I spoke briefly to your office this morning and told your secretary I would be in Washington next week and was hoping to drop by and see you. Which, they said, was best arranged by my telephoning for a fixed appointment when I came in to Washington on Monday.

But since I want to talk to you on a matter of some sensitivity and great complexity, I think I ought to precede my visit with a quick note to let you reflect a bit before I come.

I am now planning to begin the next Making of the President, with a rather brief passage of ten or twelve pages on our involvement in VietNam. VietNam, after all, is the overriding theme of the politics of 1968. I shall leave it to other historians in years to come to write the true and full story of that involvement and how it came to pass. But I want my brief account to be as accurate and fair as I can achieve.

We talked about this, of course, last November when I visited in your office. And, since then, I've spoken to a good half-dozen of the key figures involved in the decisions of 1965. As always, accounts blur and contradict; each man refracts each episode through the prism of his own memory.

Two episodes will make the core of this opening section:

First, of course, the decision of February 6th/7th 1965 to bomb; and, on that episode most accounts are, strangely enough, in agreement.

The Second episode is the sequence of decisions between July 21st-July 28th on committing our ground troops to active combat, announced by Johnson on the 28th.

I am thoroughly confused by what I've been told about this second episode. Your name figures largely

2)

in all accounts. Generally, ( to summarize brutally a great many conversations), I am told the following:

a) That McNamara wanted to call up the reserves, put the matter before Congress in a full foreign policy debate that would carry the public, politically, along with the policy. On this matter, I'm told you were overruled by the President, who did not want to disturb Congress with a heated summer debate while the architecture of the Great Society was being unveiled in Congress.

b) That McNamara felt then that the costs of the war should be brought out into the open and that taxes should be raised to pay for it. Johnson, I'm told, felt that the operation was manageable without raising taxes and told McNamara to "bury" the costs in the general Pentagon budget, hoping that the war would be over quickly enough to make it only a passing episode.

You see how sensitive these matters are. But I feel, as a professional journalist, that it would be most unwise to take someone else's account of the McNamara position. More than that-- I feel it would be a major breach of our friendship if I did not call Bob McNamara to have him explain Secretary McNamara's decision and thinking to me.

Naturally, I anticipate that our conversation will be on a background, not-for-quotation-nor-attribution basis. The book will appear in July of 1969, and thus not contribute to the political polemics of the current election year. And, as always, it will be so great a pleasure to see you again.

I'll telephone when I get into town on Monday and see if we can fix a date convenient to you.

All best,

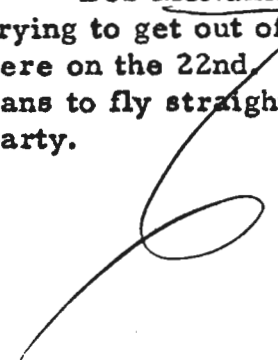
  
Teddy White

*file*  
*Mary Rather*

May 10, 1971

Mr. President:

*X*  
Bob McNamara called. He has been struggling, trying to get out of a visit to Ghana so that he could be here on the 22nd. He simply cannot do that; but he plans to fly straight through and make it to Arthur Krim's party.



W. W. Rostow

WWRostow:rlh

*X*  
copy to: Mary Rather

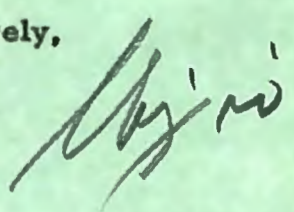
MESSAGES  
RECD. - HEALTH

Dear Bob:

I appreciate so much your thoughtful letter. The concern and prayers of old friends are the best tonic a sick man can have -- and your spoonful brightened my day.

Please give our love to Marg.

Sincerely,



★  
Honorable Robert S. McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

April 27, 1972

LBJ:RLH:jw

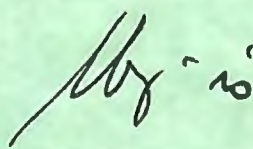
MESSAGES  
RECD. - HEALTH

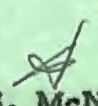
Dear Margy:

They keep telling me to be patient, but I have not yet learned how. I'm anxious to be home, and I'm doing my best to recover quickly. I believe I am succeeding...I want you to know how much your love and your message helped.

With thanks and affection,

Sincerely,



  
Mrs. Robert S. McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

April 14, 1972

P.S. Lady Bird has hidden my cigars.

LBJ:BT

May 27, 1972

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

Mr. President:

Only a few of us know how much yesterday's <sup>★</sup>SALT agreement owes to you. From my first day with you in the White House to the last, I never lost my admiration for the way you managed to drive forward stubbornly in normalizing relations with the Soviet Union (and in other constructive aspects of foreign policy) while carrying the burdens of Vietnam, the burning cities, the anti-war opposition, etc. I hope and believe the grandeur of that performance comes through in The Diffusion of Power. But if it doesn't, or the book isn't read, it will come through in history.

As Spurgeon <sup>★</sup>Keeny (who worked with me on arms control) said yesterday, when he called from ACDA to tell me the agreement was reached: "I wish it had come in President Johnson's time." It was a technical not a sentimental statement. The relative strategic balance has deteriorated against us over these years. But, still, it's a great agreement, if our people don't come to believe it permits us to gut our military budgets and go isolationist. Within the framework of the SALT agreement, Moscow can still move forward and put our interests in danger, as it did by grub-staking so lavishly Hanoi's spring offensive, in the Middle East, and elsewhere.

I had a word with Bob <sup>★</sup>McNamara last night. He gave a great deal to build the foundations for the SALT agreement. He asked me to send you his warmest regards.

*W. A. Rostow*

PUBLICATIONS  
Book by  
VANTAGE POINT  
[GIFT - sent as

Dear Margy and Bob:

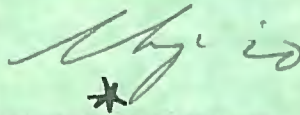
Here we are into 1972 and, at one of Time's new beginnings, it is especially exhilarating to have your warm words and wishes this morning.

We know, Margy, that you needed no help from that 9,000 feet to bring your Christmas dinner up to your usual high standards, and we were interested to hear to what corners of the universe fate has scattered your family.

You please me, too, Margy, with the kind things you say about the book and Bob's reaction to it and you impress me with your wonderful success with RIF.

You are a very talented twosome and one we will always be wishing much gladness and good fortune.

Sincerely,



Honorable and Mrs. Robert McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

January 10, 1972

LBJ:JK:mh

Bob H Hardesty

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES  
INVITATION TO ~~DECLINE~~

71g 71g

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

(9)

December 8, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR PRESIDENT JOHNSON

FROM BOB HARDESTY *BH*

Mr. President:

Bob Cox (former assistant to John Macy) called about this invitation from T. D. Copeland to speak at the UN symposium in New York on May 4.

Cox wanted you to know three things.

First, the dinner is a much more prestigious affair than Mr. Copeland's letter indicates. It will be attended by such business leaders as David Rockefeller, plus most of the UN Ambassadors, plus World Bank officials including Bob McNamara. Cox said, "This is a very substantial forum, in the event that President Johnson wants such a forum at that time."

Second, they are not asking for a definite acceptance. "If President Johnson thinks he might be interested in coming, but doesn't want to commit himself, we'll have another speaker in the wings in case he decides not to come at the last minute."

Third, you would be free to talk about anything you chose. There would be no constraints on subject matter.

Are you interested in keeping this invitation open?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

*Vietnam*

February 7, 1972

Dear Mrs. Crisler:

*Robert*  
With respect to your letter, ~~undated~~, we have  
no record that Secretary McNamara promised  
an end to the war within six weeks, or any  
other precise period.

*[Signature]*  
Sincerely,

(Miss) Mary Rather  
Secretary

\*  
Mrs. Edith E. Crisler  
3033 Evans Mill Road  
Lithonia, Georgia 30058

WWR:rlm

June 4, 1969

Dear Mr. Secretary,

President Johnson asked that I send the enclosed inscribed copy of "THE JOHNSON YEARS," to which you contributed so much.

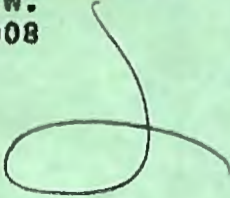
He is deeply grateful to you for the part you played in writing the record of these years.

With best personal wishes, I am.

Sincerely,

W. Thomas Johnson  
Executive Assistant

Honorable Robert S. <sup>Mc</sup>McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008



File

Tuesday, March 18, 1969

Mr. President:

I was chatting with Bob McNamara about something else and he volunteered the following:

- History is being written by "self-serving parties";
- The President should get his story of March 31st out soon, before the "public image of history crystallizes."

W.W. Rostow

cc: Tom Johnson

March 17, 1969

IF 24

MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON

March 17, 1969  
12:10 PM

From: Harry Middleton *HM* ADMINISTRATION  
MEMO

PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF by Telephone (RE: ABM)  
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Mr. President:

I spoke to Secretary Clifford again this morning to determine the extent of his approval of President Nixon's ABM decision. Clifford said he does approve the Nixon decision. Attached are the notes of my telephone conversation with him.

Secretary McNamara called to give me his thoughts on the differences between the Johnson Administration plan and the Nixon Administration plan. Attached are my notes of the McNamara conversation.

on for the following

conditions that would  
program.

er concept was be-  
s wise to temper and  
ng our chances of  
ed.

would be if the Congress  
to build any kind of de-  
t an enormous disadvan-  
ts. So we take less  
if we modify the ABM

passage.

ct of our defensive missile

plan on our talks with the Soviets than I am with the actual merit of the plan itself.

"The opposition has built up to the point where the wise course is to modify the plan. I believe we now have a good chance to get the modified plan through.

ADMINISTRATION (2)  
Admin. memo.  
FILE

Tuesday, March 18, 1969

Mr. President:

I was chatting with Bob McNamara about something else and he volunteered the following:

- History is being written by "self-serving parties";
- The President should get his story of March 31st out soon, before the "public image of history crystallizes."

W. W. Rostow

cc: Tom Johnson ✓

WWRostow:rlh

**January 28, 1969**

**Dear Bob:**

I have had many occasions to be grateful not only for your brilliant assistance, but also for the generosity of your support. Now, as so often in the past, I have difficulty finding the words to thank you.

The tribute that you wrote for the New York dinner two weeks ago touched me deeply. But I must say, it belongs to you as well. What we may have accomplished, we accomplished together -- and not only I, but the entire nation is in your debt.

**Sincerely,**



**Honorable Robert S. McNamara**  
**2412 Tracy Place, N.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20008**



**LBJ:RLH:fd**

 **NEW YORK DINNER**

Mar. 6, 1970

\*Bundy

Dear Mac:

As you gather, I've been in the hospital these past few days, but it hasn't kept me from reading my mail and giving thought to the tasks ahead.

I was glad to receive your candid letter of February 23 and I understand that the pressures on you in New York precluded a longer analysis of the chapters and more detailed comments.

Obviously, more time and a more exhaustive study of the documents could produce a different -- and, perhaps, a better -- book. But I am convinced that the wise course, taking all things into account, is for me to plow on and publish in the reasonably near future an account of the major crises and accomplishments of those five years.

You may not be aware that most of these chapters have gone through many drafts -- one of them, 16. Before we finish, they will go through several further drafts. As I have worked over them with my staff -- examining all the records that we have -- I became convinced that they are coming to reflect quite fairly the documentary materials as a whole; and, perhaps more important, they do reflect the balance of considerations which led me to make the decisions I did make.

Nevertheless, I am sure that the book can be substantially improved. There are very few people whose judgment I want in this final stage. On foreign affairs, Dean Rusk, Cy Vance, and Bob McNamara are among them. And they have proved immensely helpful and constructive on large and small matters, after a line-by-line reading. You are, of course, one of those to whom I should like to turn in an effort to make this book as good as it can be.

(F)

(3)

March 2, 1970

10:32 a.m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Should Bill Jorden go to Washington to keep his appointment  
with Secretary McNamara as already scheduled?

YES ☒

NO ☐

(T)  
Tom Johnson

PUBLICATIONS  
BOOK

ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

7:45 p.m.  
March 5, 1970

(7)  
Secretary ~~Mc~~<sup>N</sup>amara called for Mrs. Johnson while President Johnson was sleeping. I went into the President's room for a message, but noticing him asleep I decided not to awaken him since the call for for Mrs. Johnson/

Secretary McNamara completed his call to Mrs. Johnson and then talked to me briefly.

He said:

I spent seven good hours with Bill Jorden. I hope we got something accomplished.

So many self-serving books are being written without thorough documentation that it will be extraordinarily good for President Johnson's book to come out. It will give history the proper perspective. I think the book is highly desirable.

I told Bill Jorden of some changes which need to be made. These are primarily in the Six Day War chapter, which has a section concerning the Hot Line with ~~K~~osygin which is excessively dramatic.

I notice that you have done a very fine job on documentation. Tom, everything just must be documented thoroughly. It makes it so much more strong as a book. You have done it, and done it well. I noted a few places to Bill where you may be able to do add some documents.

Tom, my own memory has really gone to pot. It also looks like the memory of many people writing books around Washington have gone to pot.

For this reason, and because I think all can make a valuable contribution, I hope you check the book with Dean ~~R~~usk, Nick ~~K~~atzenbach, Cy ~~V~~ance, ~~M~~c Bundy, and Bob McNamara.

Tell "the boss" that he is in our hearts and in our minds.

(10)  
Tom J.

July 1, 1971

Dear Mr. St. John:

The only letter in President Johnson's files received from you was that of November 1, 1968, to which a reply was sent by Mr. Whitney Shoemaker on November 6.

As for Secretary McNamara's resignation in 1967, he had served almost seven long, hard years in one of the most demanding posts in the government. He was going forward to lead the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, one of the most important posts in the international community, where he has served with high distinction for three and one-half years.

You may find this and other of your concerns clarified in President Johnson's forthcoming book, The Vantage Point.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Mary Rather  
Secretary

★  
Mr. Anthony St. John  
1715 North 16 Avenue  
Executive Apartment 203  
Hollywood, Florida 33020

WWR:rla

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

De Cere

July 30, 1971

Dear Mr. Secretary:

President and Mrs. Johnson thought you might like to have this picture as a memento of your recent visit to Texas for the dedication of the Lyndon Johnson Library. This comes to you with their warm personal regards.

PRES sig  
PUBLIC ACTIVITIES  
GIFT SENT

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Willie Day Taylor  
Assistant

Honorable Robert McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

\* June 18, 1971

ADMINISTRATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

Mr. President:

My thoughts have been much with you these days. Through more than two years of critical meetings at which the nation's policies were shaped, I sat in the room as your aide.

At each I saw a big, big man pour over every map, study carefully every document, question and re-question every policy adviser, listen to every viewpoint.

The maps changed. The views changed. Even the personalities changed. *Robert* McNamara and *Clark* Clifford, *in* Bundy and *Walt* Rostow, *Earl* Wheeler and *Rusk* Helms, *met* Rusk and Katzenbach. Some held firm. Some fluttered. Some ran.

But one aspect did not change:

The man who presided over those meetings always retired from those meetings to his oval office or to his bedroom where he called upon the best judgment of the best minds available to our country, where he called upon the best that was within himself---and where often he called upon his God.

I saw the pain inflicted on you when an American plane and American men were lost in Vietnam. I knew the unusual precautions you ordered to prevent needless loss of civilian life, both in the South and in the North. I also saw the senseless, ruthless attacks upon you by those in our own country who would often make the road toward peace more difficult to travel.

At every stage that I was privileged to witness--and there were more than 100 of those meetings during 1967 and 1968--one fact was clear:

only the President had all the facts, all the views, all the suggestions, all the alternatives, and all the potential consequences.

You made the decisions based not on what was right for you, but on the basis on what was right for others---in this case those people of Southeast Asia who wanted their right to be free.

An honest history of this period cannot be based on fragments written by men whose narrow perspective produced such an incomplete account as that published this week.

*Tom J*  
Tom Johnson

ORIGINAL SENT TO

June 21, 1971

PUBLIC INFORMATION  
PRESS - *Reaction**N.Y. Times*

(11)

Mr. President:

I have had two very long telephone conversations: one last night with Francis Bator; the other this morning with Averell Harriman. Each initiated the call to me.

1. Francis and Averell report an interesting and possibly important split within the Eastern anti-Vietnam forces: Averell, George Ball, Francis Bator, Carl Kaysen have turned against the New York Times; they believe that the credibility of government is at stake; they are trying to do anything helpful to assert the integrity of President Johnson and his administration and the bad faith of the New York Times exercise.

2. Both Francis and Averell asked me: Is there anything I can do? I told them that if they understood the truth -- namely, that President Johnson concealed no essential of his Vietnam policy from the American people and the New York Times is corrupt -- they should say so loud and clear.

3. Francis urged that at some stage President Johnson speak out; he indicated that he was aware of the legal issues and the complexity of some of the problems to which a statement by President Johnson might have to address itself; and he volunteered to go over any statement in advance, knowing the attitudes of the people in the East who have to be convinced.

4. Averell's attitude towards a statement was somewhat different. He said that what had come out in TIME from President Johnson was helpful. What was needed now was a short, powerful statement by President Johnson to stop the "locking into concrete" of the conclusion that President Johnson had deceived the American people in 1964-65. He thought what had come out in TIME magazine and had been on the air last night was helpful. On the other hand, he was extremely careful to say that he did not know all the considerations bearing on a statement by President Johnson; he would not advise him; but he merely wanted President Johnson to know that from where he was, it would be useful to do something soon to prevent the New York Times view from crystallizing.

5. Francis Bator, mildly, and Averell, strongly, urged that there be a statement which denied that it was President Johnson's view that Bob McNamara had started the study at the behest of Robert Kennedy and to strengthen Robert Kennedy's political position. Averell said that Bob is in "a terrible state." He feels miserable about the study, its leakage, and the New York Times use of it. He is deeply disturbed that

W. W. Rostow

ADMINISTRATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

May 28, 1970

(8)

TO: TOM JOHNSON

FROM: Dorothy Territo

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY  
*Garrison 4.2.10*

Mr. Middleton asked me to develop a list of dates for meeting with the remaining exhibit committees -- after June 15. I am attaching three suggested schedules, which have been checked against the calendar of deadlines. It is our feeling, because of the time factor, the meetings should be held in June, if possible.

I planned every schedule showing the International Affairs group here on Friday, in the event the President and Mrs. Johnson would wish to entertain the Rusks, McNamaras and Bundys over the weekend.

Also, experience seems to show that busy people travel easier over weekends, so I scheduled the American City on Monday for Mr. Kaiser's convenience.

*Tom  
Call me*

*e*

ORIGINAL SENT TO TERRITO

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES  
APPT.

Dear Margy:

After receiving your sweet letter of May fourth, we've learned that you and Bob may be able to join us late Saturday afternoon.

We're hoping all goes well.

Sincerely,

*lly' id*

\*  
Mrs. Robert S. McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

May 17, 1971

LBJ:BT

2412 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

June 7, 1971

Dear Mr. President and Lady Bird,

Bob and I want to tell you that, no matter how sleepy we looked, we loved being with you, even if late. It was good to see you both looking so well.

Judging from the East Coast, it was one of the happier times we have had in a long time. It is all a point of view, but the hope seems to be out of Washington. I'm particularly thinking of the poverty program which gave so much hope to many. Our Book Program is about to really take off and be a truly national program.

The Library is handsome and beautifully done. All went to smoothly, and everyone who was there was there because they wanted to be and not because they thought they should be. I saw Liz Carpenter at the Caters last week and she said, "Never again without a White House switchboard."

All our good wishes.

Love,

The Honorable  
and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson  
LBJ Ranch  
Stonewall, Texas 78671

*Mary + BTH*  
*M. E. M. M. M.*

*I am so enjoying your B. & B.  
Lady Bird - I can't wait  
to read The President's -*

(13)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
*Vietnam*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Dr. Newland ✓  
Dorothy Territo ✓  
Lois Nivens ✓  
Mary ~~R~~ather ✓  
Mildred ~~S~~tegall ✓  
Bill Jorden ✓  
Juanita ~~R~~oberts

ADMINISTRATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

FROM TOM JOHNSON

President Johnson has repeatedly asked for us to locate a memorandum which was sent to him by Secretary ~~McNamara~~ urging the initiation of bombing in North Vietnam. At this stage, ~~Lois Nivens~~, ~~Bill Jorden~~ and I have not been able to locate it.

President Johnson remembers that the memo was placed in the middle drawer of his small office in Washington (the one adjoining the oval office adjacent to Jim ~~Jones~~.)

Would each of you search your memories and any files you may be familiar with to see if it could have been placed in them. It is possible that this memorandum was taken from the desk and put with other memorandums which have not yet been sorted. In any case, this has first priority and we should board it from every angle possible.

In particular, President Johnson wants Lois Nivens to call Bromley ~~Smith~~ and Dorothy ~~Territo~~ to search everything that was taken from the office prior to leaving on January 20.

August 6, 1969

Dear Mr. <sup>Bob</sup> McNamara:

President Johnson thought you might like to see the attached article by John Roche, "The Outsider's Insider."

May I take this opportunity to wish you a most happy and good 1970.

Sincerely,

W. Thomas Johnson  
Executive Assistant

Honorable Robert S. McNamara  
President, International Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development  
1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20433

December 30, 1969

WTJ:rlh

November 20, 1970

Mr. President:

Bob McNamara just called and spoke to me at considerable length to the following effect.

1. Two major studies are under way on Vietnam: one by Halberstam, the other by the Institute for Policy Studies. The latter is an extreme left wing operation including Marcus G. Raskin who, briefly, Mac let into the White House in 1961, quickly to repent.

2. Halberstam is about to publish in Harper's a hatchet job on Bob McNamara parallel to the very ugly piece he wrote on Mac Bundy. These pieces are, in fact, portions of his book on Vietnam, designed to demonstrate that President Johnson, Rusk, McNamara, Bundy, and Rostow are personally responsible for Vietnam.

3. What worries McNamara is that, from the information flowing to him, both the Raskin group and Halberstam have available a number of classified documents from the Government. They plan to use these in a selective, damaging way against their targets. McNamara reports that certain members or former members of the Government feel they have the right and duty to "punish" those whom they regard as individually responsible for Vietnam policy.

4. Bob's main operational point was to express his hope that:

-- President Johnson's book would come out as soon as possible; and

-- That on Vietnam the book would contain as much hard documentary evidence as possible.

In general, he thinks the only way these attacks can be dealt with is by the fullest statement possible of the truth.

I asked him if he thought that any of the people connected with the compilation of the Defense Department history of Vietnam might be involved in the passing of documents to characters of this kind. He said it was wholly possible. He had asked John McNaughton to organize the documents. He said he did not know who McNaughton had put on the job. Their instruction was to collect documents and not write historical analyses. They apparently did write history, some of which he believes is biased. He said he has never been able to bring himself to look at the Defense Department history of Vietnam.

Walt Rostow

November 3, 1970

ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON

FROM BILL JORDAN  
BOB HARDESTY

ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEMO

33

Mr. President:

As per your instructions, we are proceeding with arrangements to get the appropriate chapters to the people you approved. This will probably entail:

1. A trip by Jordan to Atlanta, Washington, and New York;
2. A trip by Hardesty to Washington and New York.

We are now in the process of contacting all of the individuals so it will be possible to see them all in one trip.

We are both tentatively making arrangements to travel next week.

The following is a breakdown of the people we plan to see:

JORDAN

Secretary Rusk  
Clark Clifford  
Ambassador Bunker (here)  
Cy Vance  
Jack Hood Vaughn  
Tom Mann  
Orville Freeman  
Secretary Fowler  
Ed Fried  
Bob McNamara  
Eugene Black

HARDESTY

Governor Connally (here)  
Walter Jenkins (here)  
Wilbur Cohen  
Phil Landrum  
Larry O'Brien  
Maryin Watson  
Lee White  
Nick Katzenbach  
Ramsey Clark  
Doug Cater  
Jim Webb  
Ed Welsh  
Barefoot Sanders (here)  
Art Okun  
Charlie Schultze  
Charlie Zwick  
Abe Fortas  
Charlie Murphy

Walt has taken the three chapters that you designated for Eugene Rostow to London with him.

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Dear Margy:

I seem to be the only 'stay-at-home'. Lady Bird left early this morning for a week's visit back East and then your post card arrived. I'll say thank you for both of us and be sure to save it for her return.

All best wishes,

Sincerely,



★  
Mrs Robert McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place  
Washington, D. C. 20008

October 27, 1970

LBJ:BT

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

*Favor denied*

October 13, 1970

Dear Miss Berger:

President Johnson asked me to thank you for thinking of him again and sending him the clippings about the Holiday Inns to be built in Mexico.

*Robert*

Although we do not feel that it would be appropriate for him to intervene in your behalf with Mr. McNamara, you do have his very best wishes for continuing success with your work.

Sincerely, *P*

(Mrs.) Willie Day Taylor  
Assistant

Miss Mary M. Berger  
2503 McCue, #11  
Houston, Texas 77027

WDT:JK:kab

MESSAGES

RECEIVED  
CHRISTMAS

69

Dear Bob and Marg:

Thank you for your warm note and  
card and the many memories that  
came with them.

Sincerely,

*LBJ*

★  
Honorable and Mrs. Robert McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

December 30, 1969

LBJ:JK:egl

*[Handwritten flourish]*

MESSAGES

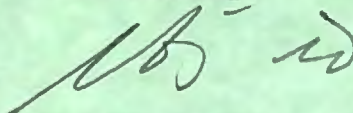
RECEIVED  
CHRISTMAS

1970

Dear Margy and Bob:

From the sound of that interesting note you wrote with your Christmas card, you'll be in West Africa when this letter arrives at your house. But it will wait and will let you know how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness at Christmas and your friendship in all seasons.

Sincerely,



Honorable and Mrs.  
Robert S. McNamara  
2412 Tracy Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

January 6, 1971

LBJ:JK:erb

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

*Vietnam*

Dear Mr. Martini:

With respect to your letter of January 10, I can assure you that Secretary Robert McNamara's various fact-finding missions to Vietnam during my administration were a valuable service to the President and to the country.

Sincerely,



\*  
Mr. Renato Martini  
120 East Cleveland Street  
Stockton, California 95204

January 17, 1972

LBJ:W WR:rlm

PUBLIC INFORMATION

PN-2D

ADMINISTRATION

AD-3

August 29, 1972

(10)

Mr. President:

You may wish to see this brief reply I have made to Halberstam's attached piece in the September 1972 Esquire.

dog I know, of course, the reasons for continuing to ignore writing of this type. But I finally concluded that one among those who have been brutally caricatured by Halberstam (President Johnson, Secretary Rusk, Bob McNamara, Mac Bundy, Max Taylor, etc.), should record with dignity the fact that his use of evidence has been quite corrupt. I talked with Mac Bundy before sending this in. He did not encourage me to answer but he confirmed that there were 6 or 7 major inaccuracies in Halberstam's portrait of him in Harper's. In any case, I thought you might wish to read this piece, which will probably be published in the November 1972 issue of Esquire.

Walt Rostow

October 4, 1972

ADMINISTRATION

AD-3 (12)

Mr. President:

Dr. S. R. <sup>\*</sup>Spencer, President of <sup>\*</sup>Davidson College, North Carolina, called on me this afternoon. He wishes to generate the resources (about \$500,000) to create a professorship in international affairs in the name of Dean <sup>\*</sup>Rusk; and he would like to do this in Mr. Rusk's time.

His first question to me was whether I thought it likely that President Johnson would be in a position to take the leadership in raising the money. I told Dr. Spencer two things:

-- I thought there was no one you would rather honor than Dean Rusk;

-- It was my impression that you were heavily committed to strengthening certain institutions here in Texas.

Nevertheless, I urged Dr. Spencer to get in touch with you directly about his plan.

We then talked of others who might lead or contribute to the effort. I suggested, for example, that it might be useful for Dr. Spencer to talk with George <sup>\*</sup>McGhee, Robert <sup>\*</sup>McNamara, Douglas <sup>\*</sup>Dillon, McGeorge <sup>\*</sup>Bundy.

Dr. Spencer told me that he had already approached The <sup>\*</sup>Rockefeller Foundation; but, for institutional reasons, they were reluctant to take the leadership. Dr. Spencer has a feeling that they might in the end make a contribution if the leadership were elsewhere.

Dr. Spencer has not approached members of the Rockefeller family. It occurred to me that you might wish to have a word about the project with Laurance <sup>\*</sup>Rockefeller over the weekend.

W. <sup>\*</sup>alt Rostow

memos to JBJ

ADMINISTRATION

Ad memo

19

February 10, 1970

MEMORANDUM:

TO: The President

FROM: Mildred *Stegall*

I have made a thorough search and the two calls in question were definitely made on August 7, 1964. I checked the Diary, the outside of the envelope that holds the tapes, and the transcript itself.

On August 4th, Senator Russell met with you upstairs in the Mansion from 3:35 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There were no calls to Senator Fulbright from the 4th through the 10th. Senator Fulbright was in the meeting in the Cabinet Room on August 4 from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Others in attendance were: President, McNamara, Rusk, McGeorge Bundy, McCone, McCormack, Mansfield, Humphrey, Russell, Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Saltonstall, Aiken, Albert, Vinson, Morgan Halleck, Arends and Bolton.

You left for Texas at 6:16 p.m. on August 7 and returned at 8:00 p.m. on the 9th.

*President, Office of  
Johnson Admin.*

★  
According to PARADE magazine for June 15, 1969 (cont.)

★  
Wilbur <sup>Cohen</sup>~~Choen~~

is still wrestling with education problems at the University of Michigan where he is the Dean of Education

★  
Robert McNamara

went to the World Bank. Recently he has spoken on the urgency of the world population crisis

★  
Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

also moved into the computer business. has been named vice presi and general counsel of International Business Machines Corp., which controls about 70 percent of the computer business in Ameri

★  
Willard Wirtz

is reported to be still on vacation as of late May. He was, howe elected to the Board of Directors of EDP Technology

★  
C.R. Smith

is a partner in Lazard Freres & Co. an investment company

★  
Marvin Watson,

is in the oil business now. Last March 20 it was announced that Watson would become president of Occidental International Corp. This subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum was formed on that day.