

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Friday, April 3, 1964

Mr. James Foss^{Bundy} arrived at 10 o'clock this morning and we had nearly two hours of art talk, about what would be nice to go with the Child^{Hassam} and the Mary Cassatt, in our own west hall living area. About where to hang the Durand^g of the Hudson River School, when it has finished being cleaned up. Mr. Foss^{Bundy}'s advice to bring the gift from Mrs. Marshall Field^A of the painting of the battle of Lake Erie^A from the Fish Room to some more eminent spot, in the White House itself. And we think, perhaps, the East Hall above the sofa. And most important of all, the possibility of where we might hang the Winslow Homer water color, which has the fantastic price tag, that I don't know whether we can ever afford. It still comes behind, in order of importance, paying for the drapes in the East Room, which we are already obligated for, since they were selected by Mrs. Kennedy about last September, and already woven in France. And then we look forward to whatever else we might acquire!

He's really so terribly nice and I do like him.

After he left, I had a bite of lunch with Lynda and Warrie Lynn and then went out to the Elms for a long and tedious three hours of work in the basement.

But mainly today will be remembered for happy reasons because, this morning, for the first time in such a long time, Lyndon sounded bouncy and like himself and there were no night sweats.

And later on in the day, I heard that McGeorge Bundy had used the

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expression, coming into his office, "Mr. President, peace is breaking out all over."

This will be remembered by me as the day we resumed diplomatic relations with Panama. Lyndon spoke in the crowded Cabinet Room about the agreement to restore diplomatic relations and about sending former Treasury Secretary Robert Anderson, to discuss the canal treaty issue. He had called up Bob, put out his request, with all the urgency of which he is so beautifully capable. And I know he hung breathless on his answer, so it must have been with a great feeling of achievement, of relief, that he heard Bob say, "Yes, Mr. President, I'll go if you want me to."

Lyndon won his point of keeping our discussion with Panama without limitations or preconditions of any kind and also the selection of Bob Anderson, a Texas Democrat turned Republican, during the Eisenhower era, took out some insurance by giving a by-partisan tinge to whatever would now emerge.

And then, for the distaff side of the house, came the big event of the day, a five o'clock reception for about 150 guests. Actually it began when Lyndon made a televised speech in the East Room to the assembled guests, all the Ambassadors and the 15 NATO countries, and their wives.

of
Matas of Greece; Menemencioglu / Turkey; British Ambassador and Lady Harlech; Senor Fenoaltea ← from Italy; Knuth-Winterfeldt from Denmark, there without her husband; Monsieur Alphand of France, there without the beautiful Madam Alphand ; and all the rest, including a

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good many charge de affaires. I was on the front row with Dean Rusk and Mrs. Rusk, the George Ball, the Alexis Johnsons were handy. And oh happy thought! The Dean Achesons were there...

Some of the Congressional leaders, including Bill and Betty Fulbright; and Lindy Boggs.

And the colonists who deal especially in foreign affairs, such as the Walter Lippmanns, and the Scotty Restons.

As well as a brace of military; General Omar Bradley, on crutches and all smiles, and the center of much happy gathering. Handsome, blond Laurence Norstad, former head of NATO, and Mrs. Norstad.

I was well pleased with Lyndon's speech, which was not only good words but good delivery. Especially liking a line he used, from the late French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, I believe it was 1949, when he said, for France "...that modern nations no longer can base their salvation and welfare, upon an egotistical and aggressive nationalism." A small arrow thrown in the direction of deGaulle.

Another good phrase was, "We have our hand out, but our guard up."

And he spoke of hope of a new spirit of diversity in Communist eastern Europe.

All in all, the speech recognized that the world had changed a lot in the 15 years of NATO's life, but he called NATO the recognized foundation stone

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of U. S. Foreign Policy.

When the speech finished, I moved swiftly to the door of the State Dining Room, ^{and} thereby missed the single, most poignant moment of the evening, because Lyndon asked former Secretary of State Dean Acheson to come up and ^{talk} ~~took~~ to them, introducing him as the man most responsible for NATO.

Later I heard that Dean Acheson, never without words, found himself suddenly hard-put to express himself.

Then everybody filed by into the State Dining Room, shaking hands and on in for drinks and hors d'oeuvres and a general air of revelry prevailed. The heady feel of victory is rare enough in this business, so let's savor it when it happens, and that's how this evening felt to me.

I stayed a rather a long time, enjoying talking with lots of people I knew. The Matsas, the Turkish Ambassador and Madam Menemencioglu; General Omar Bradley, whom I ^{along} with everybody else ^{admire} so much; and Mrs. Dean Acheson.

But finally, when I began to wonder, ^{whether} people with dinner engagements were looking eagerly over their shoulders, saying "Have they gone yet?", so that they could leave,

I slipped out and went up in the elevator, having heard in one ear, ^{that} Lyndon had invited a few people to join us later for dinner.

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The Max Friedmans, the Bill Whites, the McGeorge Bundys, and, of course, Jack Valenti.

It was really a triumph on the part of Lyndon's staff, to have accumulated so many people important to NATO, on such short notice. I think the inviting had gone on until 10 or 11 o'clock the night before, by telephone or telegram.

Admiral Radford and Mrs. Radford, and the Ridgeways were among those there.

But pretty soon, our dinner guests joined us, and Bill White told me he had put proof sheets of his book into Lyndon's hands that day, so I knew we had some late reading hours coming up.

I had a chance to thank Max Friedman for some of the rolling, spiritual words he had put together, as the foundation of my talk, when I go to the luncheon for the Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation.

The conversation got around to the beginning of NATO and Vandenberg's part in it. And I believe it was McBundy, who said, quoting Vandenberg, "... that the greatest merit of NATO is that it is inside the charter, but outside the veto."

We talked about the press and the part it plays in Washington. And either Max or Bill said, "The press is one of the great parts of the government, and the White House that cuts itself off from the press, cuts itself off from a large part of government."

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I could not choose six or eight people I'd rather spend time with, more than these. And such evenings are the rich sustenance of Washington, that I shall miss, when I'm sitting in that rocking chair, just watching the Pedernales roll by.

They left early and it was a reasonable hour to bed, and one of my last ^{grateful} ~~greatful~~ thoughts was that Lynda and Luci had been present, pretty, cordial, useful and apparently regarding it as much as an opportunity as an obligation. Lynda, at least, on being asked by Countess Knuth-Winterfeldt, to a dance that her daughter was giving that night, had said, "Alright, I think I just can.", and had gotten herself a White House aide, and out she had put, and I hope it was a good evening for her.