

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Sunday, February 7, 1965

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Actually began after midnight. It was the second round in the war of nerves.

Yesterday, in the middle of the afternoon, Lyndon had heard of the Viet Cong attack on American barracks and other installations in South Viet-Nam. He called a Security Counsel meeting and ordered our response - an air attack against barracks of the Viet Cong. So in the night, we were waiting to hear how the attack had gone. It came, at one o'clock, and two o'clock, and three, and again at five - the ring of the phone, the quick reach for it, and tense quiet talk. I heard later, that Cy Vance and General Wheeler, ~~stayed~~ stayed at the Pentagon throughout the night, getting and giving the information.

In the morning, ~~Lyndon~~ Lyndon was up early for another meeting of the National Security Counsel, and I got ready for church, not having the slightest idea whether we would go or not. But he was through, ~~and~~ and we did, just a little before 11, on a grey and rainy day, to St. Marks - George with us.

And <sup>there</sup> ~~their~~, we were in for one of Bill Baxter's innovations, the University of Maryland's Episcopal Choir, ~~did~~ did a rejoice Mass, rather like a spiritual. It was sung to the accompaniment of piano, guitar, bongo drums, and wood winds. Unconventional, full of joy, and rather thrilling really, led by a very lovely little blond girl.

Later, I saw she helped the pianist up to the altar to take communion because he was a blind boy.

We went back to the coffee hour, and there was Lyndon's niece, Roxanne, with the exciting news that she was engaged to a Swiss citizen, a lawyer.

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We asked the McPhersons to join us for lunch, and then Bess Abell came over and I chose one of the Norman Narell dresses, *she* had sent down for me.

And then we tried to make up for some of the sleep we didn't get.

The Albert Thomases, Mary Ann Means and her date, Emmet <sup>Riordan</sup> ~~Reardon~~; Jack and Mary Margaret joined us for an early, pot luck dinner. ~~Vera~~ Thomas all thrilled over the prospect of a second grandchild, *coming* this summer. I told her about the movies I had, *on* little Ann, and we fixed *the* *as* ~~a~~ date, *early* in spring of 1940.

It was a tense and shadowed day, but we'll probably have to learn to live in the middle of it, for not hours or days but years, or whatever the tenure is.

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