

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
DAILY DIARY

*calls + SS
checked*

Date January 8, 1968

The President began his day at (Place) LBJ RANCH, Texas

Day MONDAY

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expenditure Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
					Extremely bad weather, 15 degrees, sleeting icy br	
					Weight: Approx 213	
	8:00am				Awake - showered w/Yuki - Sgt. Gaddis reports the President took him in the shower with him and gave him a good scrubbing and delighted in doing so.	
<i>c</i>	9:00a	- 10:15a			Secy Rusk to President's bedroom	
	9:40a		t		Jim Jones- asking that he please come in to his bedroom and asked for a tray with some hot tea	
	10:15a	- 10:20a			Secy Rusk to the office to make a phone call to Secy Fowler to whom he said "looks like you all can go ahead with the press conference however the President stressed the fact that it shouldn't take the air that 'these people are here for the express purpose of buying bombs and threatening world security.."	
<i>c</i>	10:22a		t		Director Charles Schultze - Wash, DC	
	10:36am				Secy McNamara and General Earle Wheeler arrived from Washington and were quietly taken into the Yellow Sitting Room next to the President's bedroom for meeting w/President and PM Eshkol	
<i>c</i>	11:25				joined by Secy Rusk and Walt Rostow <i>Lucius Battle joined</i>	
	11:35am	- 11:55am			group out - President and PM Eshkol alone - in Yellow Sitting Room	
	11:55am	- 1:50pm			The President and Prime Minister Eshkol to the living room to join:	

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
					<u>ISRAELIS:</u>	
					Amb. Avraham Harman - Amb of Israel to the U. S.	
					Dr. Yaacov Herzog, Director General, Office of the Prime Minister	
					Hon. Ephraim Evron, Minister, Embassy of Israel	
					Mr. Moshe Bitan, Asst Director General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs	
					and Director of the United States Division	
					Mr. Aviad Yaffe, Political Secy to the Prime Minister	
					Brig Gen. Joseph Geva, Defense and Armed Forces Attache, Embassy of Israel	
					Colonel Israel Leor, Military Secy to the Prime Minister	
					General Haab	
					<u>AMERICANS:</u>	
					Secy Dean Rusk	
					Secy Robert McNamara	
					General Earle Wheeler	
					UnderSecy Lucius Battle	
					Walt Rostow	
					Amb. James Symington	
	1:50p - 2:30pm				LUNCH w/Mrs. Johnson	
					all visiting Israelis and PM and Mrs. Eshkol , Israel ladies accompanying their husbands,	
					Luci Nugent and Little Lyn	
					Sam King, Amb. Symington, Jim Jones, mf and yb	
	2:45 -				Meeting in Living Room w/PM Eshkol	
					and Israeli group plus Secy McNamara, Secy Rusk, Walt Rostow	
					Lucius Battle	
					Mrs. Johnson and ladies to the Den for conversation and coffee	
					Luci and Little Lyn joined	

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1964 OF-744-735

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	5:06pm	5:10pm			X The President, Secy McNamara, Secy Rusk, Gen. Wheeler Walt Rostow <i>to the office</i>	
					Showing all the new paintings in the office XXXXXX	
					Escorted them outside but weather was so bad, sleeting, extremely cold --he returned to office immediately. All above leaving for Wash DC right away.	
	5:10p	5:50			Back to the Office - working desk w/Jim Jones	
	5:13	5:15			<i>Mrs Johnson joined</i>	
	6:28p		t		Col. Cross	
	7:05pm	7:35pm			DINNER w/Mrs. Johnson Luci Nugent Little Lyn mf and yb Jim Jones	
					7:31pm t Col. Cross (dictated a wire he wanted PM and Mrs. Eshkol to receive while enroute to NY (see p. 5 for text)	
					Mrs. Johnson's question to the President immediately upon sitting down to dinner was "well, what is the outcome of Prime Minister's Eshkol's visit...how do you feel about the success of his visit or what is the result of your talks?"	
					The President started by saying that as far as he was concerned it had gone well ...to the point that things hadn't really firmed up until their very last meeting prior to Eshkol's departure. He said in essence that he had "tumbled and tossed all of last night," wondering how to cope with what he knew the reason why Eshkol had come in the first placeto get more planes, Phantoms, Skyhawks, etc.	

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	7:48p			t	Tom Johnson - San Antonio, Texas	
					The President added that he just flat told PM Eshkol -- he couldn't have those planes, that firstly he wanted to discuss the problem with keeping the Russians from giving more arms to the Arabs, the peace was the foremost thing in his mind, that he just couldn't promise the planes, couldn't make any definite commitments towards arms for anybody, that he could commit one thing: that by January of 1969 he would have some answer but would like to study the matter thoroughly in the meantime.	
					President said he told him "he would keep their military defense capability under active and sympathetic examination and review in the light of all relevant factors, including the shipment of military equipment by others to the area."	
					Mrs. Johnson made mention of how interesting Mrs. Eshkol's conversations had been with her, that she had learned there were something like 70 nations represented in the country of Israel, a merely 2-1/2 million population nation, and that there was compulsory military training for women, Mrs. Eshkol having been a Sergeant.	
					Mrs. Eshkol is the Prime Minister's third wife and 34 years his junior.	
					Text of message dictated by the President as he ate his dinner at the LBJ Ranch dining room table:	
					To Prime Minister and Mrs. Eshkol:	
					Aboard 86972 in route John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, USA	
					"We enjoyed the two days we spent together in our home. We wish the weather had not been so cold, but we are glad the spirit was warm.	
					Our people will have a better understanding of our mutual problems because you all came, and we will together move forward in accordance with our understanding of this afternoon.	
					Your visit was helpful and I think will be quite productive. We wish you a safe and happy return home and will keep in close contact with you in the days and months ahead.	
					Our Best Always, LADY BIRD AND LYNDON JOHNSON	

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