

JULY 12, 1967 - 2:50 p.m.

39

TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP

Sec. Rusk	Geo. Christian
Sec. McNamara	Tom Johnson
Walt Rostow	

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~LITERALLY EYES ONLY~~

July 12, 1967  
7:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

**Tom**  
FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached is a summary of notes taken during the President's luncheon today with Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, Walt Rostow, George Christian, and Tom Johnson.

The meeting began at 2:50. It ended at 3:40 p.m.

Attachment

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Authority NLS 82-42  
By CC, DATE Date 11-7-83

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~LITERALLY EYES ONLY~~

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~~EYES ONLY~~

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Notes of Meeting of the President with Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, Walt Rostow, George Christian, Tom Johnson in the Family Dining Room

July 12, 1967

Began at 2:45 in the Mansion

The President said he wanted the Congressional leaders better advised on impending action. The President pointed out that he was very disappointed by the handling of the discussions with Congress, especially Senator Fulbright and Senator Russell, on the question of sending U. S. transports to the Congo.

Secretary Rusk said he had discussed the matter with Senator Fulbright and that Senator Fulbright had offered no objections to the Secretary's conversations with him on the Congo matter at that time.

Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara discussed current Congo problems. Secretary McNamara said that paratroopers were being dropped in the Congo today utilizing U. S. aircraft.

The President asked Secretary McNamara if we have any aircraft which are comparable to the Soviet vertical take-off aircraft which are being seen on tv and in the press. Secretary McNamara responded that we did but that the aircraft were of little value. The President said they were of strong propaganda value and that DOD should begin making more exposure of U. S. aircraft with this capability.

The President said he is still concerned about the Middle East situation. The President said that he was more concerned about the Soviet position in the Middle East than Secretary McNamara and Secretary Rusk appeared to be.

The President said he wanted a report on what U. S. posture should be concerning the arms shipments situation into the Middle East.

Secretary McNamara said he would favor a unilateral report to the United Nations on U. S. arms shipments to Middle East countries even if the Soviets did not decide to make public their arms shipments into the area.

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On Vietnam, the President said that he had solicited the opinion now of five of his key advisors: Secretary McNamara, Secretary Katzenbach, Ambassador Komer, Ambassador Bunker, and Ambassador Locke. The President said he wanted their individual opinions about our current position and problems in that area.

The President told Secretary McNamara he should brief the press after the luncheon meeting. The President outlined the areas which Secretary McNamara should review with the press. The President agreed that this review should include:

- Announcement that some more troops would be required
- That the troops currently there should be used better
- That we would be talking with other governments about more troops (this is a matter for the 7 nations and not just one).
- There would be no call up of reserves to meet current manpower requirements.
- There is no military stalemate.

Walt Rostow reviewed with the luncheon group three proposals by McGeorge Bundy who was in New York on other business. These proposals concerned Soviet arms shipments to the Middle East, arms registration with the United Nations, Israeli request for more arms. The President asked that Rostow confer with Rusk and McNamara and come back to the President with a report on these issues.

Secretary McNamara asked if he should make the trip to Germany on Sunday as scheduled. The President said no, that the timing was inappropriate because of the recent budget cut which may have substantial impact on the military situation in Germany. All agreed that the Secretary's trip should be postponed until the Germans have completed a review of their budget situation and the potential effects on German troop levels.