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JULY 14, 1967 - 12:30 p.m.

SPECIAL NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL PANEL
ON THE MIDEAST

Sec. McNamara

Und. Sec. Katzenbach

Sec. Fowler

Gen. Wheeler

CID Dir. Helms

Clark Clifford

Eugene Rostow

Harry McPherson

McGeorge Bundy

David Popper

John Devlin

Tom Johnson

Geo. Christian

MEMORANDUM

MEETING NOTES
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Meeting Began: 12:30 p.m.
Meeting Ended: 12:51 p.m.
Location: Cabinet Room

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July 14, 1967
6:10 p.m.

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

Tom

FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached is a report of the President's Meeting in the Cabinet Room with Special National Security Council Panel on the Mideast.

Attending the meeting:

The President
Secretary Robert McNamara
Under Secretary Nicholas Katzenbach
Secretary Henry H. Fowler
General Earle Wheeler
Mr. Richard Helms
Mr. Clark Clifford
Under Secretary Eugene Rostow
Mr. Lucius Battle
Mr. Walt Rostow
Mr. Harry McPherson
Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Mr. David H. Popper
Mr. John Devlin
Mr. Tom Johnson
Mr. George Christian

The Meeting began at 12:30 p.m. It ended at 12:51 p.m.

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McGeorge Bundy outlined the agenda of the meeting:

1. Arms Registration Policy being examined.
2. Agreed that discussion of selected military aid agreements would be delayed until after Secretary Rusk talks with the Congress.
3. Position on the U. N. General Assembly vote on Jerusalem.

On the matter of the General Assembly vote on Jerusalem, Secretary Katzenbach said that the State Department recommendation still holds. That is to abstain from voting, issue a clarifying statement which would be put out at the White House or at State.

Bundy said there should be a formal statement issued at State in the Secretary's name or by the Secretary himself.

Bundy said a vote on the issue was expected in the U. N.

Bundy circulated a proposed statement of view on the Middle East. There was discussion of the language of the statement. The President said the word "deplore" should be changed to "regret." This was done.

There were several suggestions for other changes by Secretary Fowler, Secretary Katzenbach, and Bundy. Bundy said the statement would not cause a violent explosion among the moderate Arabs or the Israelis.

After much discussion of the precise language of the statement, the President said:

"What I want to say is that we regret their unwillingness to budge."

There was laughter.

Bundy said that the Israelis are going budge according to reports from Eban.

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Secretary Fowler proposed: "The U.S. regrets the failure of the Government of Israel to make clear that its actions in recent weeks is only provisional." Bundy objected because of the reaction to this.

Clark Clifford said do not be too specific. He said he preferred to approach this in a general way rather than tying ourselves down to specific language.

McPherson suggested that the line in question be moved up in the text. The President agreed. The President concluded the discussion by stating that McPherson should get together with Rostow and Bundy and determine the exact handling of the situation. Then, send the proposal to the President for approval.

On another area, McGeorge Bundy said that feelers should be stimulated to the weaker hangers-on of the Arabs to the effect that if they will come back into diplomatic relations with us, we will get back into relations with them. He mentioned specifically Sudan.

The panel agreed that this was a good idea. The feelers should be that "if you will ^{get} back into business with us we will get back into business with you."

Clark Clifford explained that a group of leading New York citizens, including David Rockefeller, Eugene Black, and John McCloy, were joining to form a group called The American Committee for Arab Refugee Relief.

The goal of the group is to raise \$10 million. Clifford wanted to know if the President considered the approach a wise one. Clifford said the idea has some psychological value among the American people.

The President asked Secretary Fowler for his opinion. The Secretary said IRS Commissioner Sheldon Cohen should look at it, that there are tax considerations, and he was somewhat skeptical about getting the President tied to a program which gave tax benefits to a group. He said many other similar groups have a way of popping up.

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Bundy said the proposal should be kept on a staff level. The President said that Cohen should be put in touch with Clifford directly after the meeting to discuss the matter.

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