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#56a notes	Notes from 7/18/67 - 6:06 p.m. meeting with Rusk, McNamara, Rostow, Bundy, Christian [Sanitized NLJ 82-42] Possible classified information 6 pp. <i>same sanitization 1-29-93</i> <i>NLJ 91-329</i> <i>declassified NLJ 91-329 appeal</i>	7/18/67	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 1

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JULY 19, 1967 - 6:06 p.m.

Secretary Rusk
Secretary McNamara
Walt Rostow
McGeorge Bundy
George Christian

MEMORANDUM

(30)
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

56

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LITERALLY EYES ONLY

July 19, 1967
10 a. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Tom
FROM: Tom Johnson

Here are the notes of your meeting in the Cabinet Room on July 18 with Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, Walt Rostow, McGeorge Bundy, and George Christian.

The meeting began at 6:06 p. m. The meeting ended at 7:30 p. m.

Attachment.

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NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH
SECRETARY RUSK
SECRETARY McNAMARA
WALT ROSTOW
McGEORGE BUNDY
GEORGE CHRISTIAN

IN THE CABINET ROOM
July 18, 1967

The President asked Secretary Rusk and Mr. Rostow if an agreement had been made on the Unger announcement. They replied affirmatively. The President gave the announcement to George Christian for release to the press on Wednesday.

McGeorge Bundy presented a document to the group on "U. S. and Jordan-Israel Settlement." The Document was discussed.

Secretary Rusk said he did not know if the U. S. wanted to be a secret mediator. He suggested somebody else, Sweden or Switzerland, would be more appropriate in getting the parties to a "meeting of the minds."

The President said he would be receptive to finding somebody to put it together before "we can't put it together again." The President said he thinks the U.S. should do it. The President said if you can get somebody to front for you that is well and good.

McGeorge Bundy said he agreed with the President. He emphasized the urgent need to "get at it with the Israelis."

The President said he felt we were going to be in a war out there before we know it. Secretary Rusk said he agreed with that.

The President said, "The clock is ticking. There is no question but what the Arabs have no confidence in us. We can't sit and let these things go."

The President said the question before the group is who is the best person to undertake the task as a mediator with the U. S. behind him.

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NEJ 91-329 Appeal

By CG NAB 1-18-96

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The President said that DeGaulle is saying to the Arabs to confiscate all of the holdings in their area and that they (France) will come in and help. The President said that report came to him from Robert Anderson on Monday night.

The President said it did not appear the Arabs were willing to sit down and talk. McGeorge Bundy said that King Hussein is prepared to do that, and that his position is unique in that regard.

The President wanted to know who the nominee of the group was to undertake this role as mediator. Bundy recommended the U.S. because "Israel will not listen to anybody else except us." The President asked about Prime Minister Pearson of Canada and Prime Minister Wilson of Great Britain. The President said he wished that we could find something for Wilson to do. Walt Rostow said that Oliver Franks could do it.

The President said that he agreed that we must act quickly. The issue now is who will coordinate all of this. Bundy said that the group would meet together and come back with a scenario for the President on how to proceed. The President asked Secretary McNamara and Secretary Rusk to "watch this very carefully."

On the matter of armed shipments to the Middle East countries, Secretary Rusk said that there was going to be a very tough time on this issue with the Congress.

The President said, "We must tell them (the Congress) that we will be out of business in that area if we don't make a sale." The \$6 million of economic aid was approved. The \$1.8 million in non-lethal aid was approved.

The President then advised the group of the dates of the Kiesinger visit and asked Secretary McNamara to be fully prepared for discussions with Kiesinger on troop levels when Kiesinger arrives in this country.

On the subject of alternatives to CIA funding to groups abroad, Secretary Rusk said there were two choices:

The first alternative, the Secretary said, was for a semi-private - government corporation which would make voluntary grants to organizations which would do "institution-building."

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This corporation would provide economic and social services for organizations such as the 4H and electric cooperatives with \$30 million a year. It would pick up activities now carried on in educational exchanges, cultural exchanges, and USIA libraries. The Secretary said that the private members of the Panel favored this approach.

The Secretary said the second choice was for a small grant-making body which would be much smaller than the first group.

The Secretary said that the private members of the Panel would rather do more than government people. The Secretary said he and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget were inclined to the lesser of the groups.

The Secretary said there are 200 to 300 organizations which are suitable for public support. The Secretary said it really is a question of modesty versus boldness. He said the Panel will meet next Saturday and he needs the President's views on this matter before discussion is held.

The President said he would approve alternative two, which calls for a smaller grant-making body. Secretary Rusk said that only an additional \$15 million would be required in net cost.

The President said it is important to get Chairman Mahan, Senator Fulbright, or Senator Russell to make this the "Russell or Fulbright program." The President said they will get you the money.

On the matter of cargo planes to the Congo, the President wanted to know what had happened.

Secretary Rusk said there had been 21 movements of the aircraft, to haul out wounded, to drop food, and to move ammunition.

Secretary Rusk said that there is no deal to save the life of Tshombe. The Secretary said that if Tshombe is executed, we might as well forget about the Congo as far as our people in Congress are concerned. The

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Secretary said it was extremely important that something be done about Tshombe's fate while he is held in Algeria.

On the subject of supplying supersonic fighters to Peru, it was agreed that the Peruvian government wanted these planes primarily for prestige value and not for any practical defense purposes. The President cited a ticker item which said Congress had proposed that the U. S. would not provide aid to any country with supersonic planes.

Secretary Rusk pointed out that the proportion of aid funds committed to defense has been steadily dropping in Latin American countries. The President said a briefing should be arranged on the subject, especially with the Congress in mind.

Secretary McNamara pointed out that the total number of tanks in Latin America is less than the number in Bulgaria alone. The Secretary said the number of aircraft in the 21 Latin American countries is less than the number operated by Sweden alone.

Secretary McNamara said that the politicians do, however, depend on the Army.

The President asked, "Isn't there some way we can show the Congress what happened in Venezuela?" Secretary Rusk said that he and Secretary McNamara had talked to the Congress many times about this. Secretary Rusk said there is a very real guerrilla problem there.

The President said it seemed to him as though it would be a wise course to get out some of those old Cuba speeches and show the Congress what could happen if we aren't able to help these countries. The President said there will be many other Cubas in Latin America unless we do. The President said Assistant Secretary Oliver thinks we should give the \$15 million in aid to Peru.

Secretary McNamara said he would give the \$15 million in aid if they met the conditions which have been set forth. Secretary Rusk said Peru would not buy the conditions.

The President said that Rusk and McNamara and Rostow should get together and clear up this matter and come back to him with a recommendation.

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On the proposal to provide support to dissident groups in Yemen, Secretary Rusk said he was very much against any support for the disloyal Republicans. The Secretary said, "Everybody is fishing. I am very much against this."

Secretary McNamara said he agreed with Secretary Rusk. The President said then it was agreed that nothing would be done.

On the matter of Viet Nam bombing policy, the President read a letter to the group from a man in Arizona and quoted such in saying that U. S. people do not think the U. S. is sincere in its desire to end the war. The letter said, "People believe that civilian heads have ignored the advice of the military." The President said he read the letter only because he believes it is symptomatic of what we will be facing on the Hill and around the country in coming months.

Secretary McNamara then reviewed targets which CINCPAC have recommended. Secretary McNamara said that there are 129 targets which have not been authorized, some of them in the 25 mile China buffer zone. Secretary McNamara said they are largely unimportant targets, many within the ten mile radius of Hanoi and some within the four mile circle of Haiphong. He said there is a very strong potential for civilian casualties if these targets are struck.

Secretary Rusk asked to look at the specific targets. Secretary McNamara provided him with a list and the Secretary said he would need until noon Wednesday before his judgment could be given. Secretary McNamara said the targets near the center of Hanoi are not worth the loss of a single U. S. plane or pilot. The Secretary said the military commanders in Viet Nam are interested in "free bombing."

The Secretary said twenty three targets would be proposed within the four mile center of Haiphong. The Secretary said if these targets are permitted, ships will be hit. The Secretary said he would recommend at least seventeen targets which are outside of the Hanoi-Haiphong perimeters except one MIG base, because the MIG base is heavily defended and the MIGS are of no threat to us at this point. There was a general discussion of the bombing strategy.

Secretary McNamara said, "Mr. President, your responsibility is to the people of this country. Whatever you feel we must do, let's do it."

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On the Taylor-Clifford mission, the President read a proposed draft of a message to be sent to the U.S. Ambassadors in the six other nations fighting with the U.S. in Vietnam.

The President made changes in the draft and returned it to Walt Rostow for editing and cabling.

The President then asked if a seven-nation Summit could be held in the Pacific before the Vietnam elections. Walt Rostow said he did not believe there should be one until "we have a government in Vietnam." The President said, "We may need a Summit for them to win their elections." No decision on this matter was reached.

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