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FILE LOCATION

~~Tom Johnson's Notes of Meeting~~

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JULY 19, 1967 - 12:23 p.m.

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CABINET MEETING

Vice President	Gardner Ackley
Sec. Rusk	Francis Bator
Fowler	Leonard Marks
Sec. McNamara	Charles Schultze
Attorn. Gen. Clark	Sec. Udall
P.M. Gen. O'Brien	Sec. Freeman
Sec. Weaver	Sec. Trowbridge
Sec. Boyd	Sec. Wirtz

Sec. Gardner	Joe Califano
Jim Jones	Harry McPherson
Marvin Watson	Douglass Cater
Barefoot Sanders	Bob Fleming
John Roche	Tom Johnson
Geo. Christian	

MEMORANDUM

28
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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July 19, 1967
7:30 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Tom
FROM: Tom Johnson

Here are the notes of your meeting with the Cabinet on July 19.

Those present were:

The Vice President	Secretary Trowbridge
Secretary Rusk	Secretary Wirtz
Secretary Fowler	Secretary Gardner
Secretary McNamara	Jim Jones
Attorney General Clark	Marvin Watson
Postmaster General O'Brien	Barefoot Sanders
Secretary Weaver	John Roche
Secretary Boyd	George Christian
Gardner Ackley	Joe Califano
Francis Bator	Harry McPherson
Leonard Marks	Douglass Cater
Charles Schultze	Bob Fleming
Secretary Udall	Tom Johnson
Secretary Freeman	

The meeting began 12:23 p. m. The meeting ended at 1:26 p. m.

Attachment.

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Authority NLS 82-42

By see, 1-7-83

SECRET

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH
THE CABINET

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 99-243

By is, NARA Date 4-21-00 IN THE CABINET ROOM
July 19, 1967

Secretary Rusk discussed the following areas:

- In relation to the Middle East, the present attention is focused on the U.N. General Assembly. We think the General Assembly will adjourn without action and throw the matter back into the Security Council. There are two questions raised by the resolutions -- whether there should be withdrawal back to the situation of June 4 or simply a statement eliminating the state of belligerence there. The General Assembly is deadlocked. There appears to be no hope of getting the 2/3 vote on the resolution. The U.S. also is very concerned about the arms build-up in the Middle East.
- On the Congo situation, the Secretary said the U.S. underestimated reaction by moving the aircraft in, although we have been supplying aircraft for seven years. There was a tense atmosphere there, and many thought there was a conspiracy of the whites to overthrow the government. There was a mass meeting scheduled on July 9. Participants were told to bring their machetes and after the meeting they were going to go after the whites. The U.S. had to show support for the government in opposition to the white mercenaries.
- The Secretary said that the situation in Nigeria was different from that in the Congo. The Nigerian government has not asked us for military intervention. This government is most concerned about the safety of the 6,000 Americans who are there. The Secretary believes most of the Americans will be evacuated.

Secretary McNamara made the following report to the Cabinet:

- On the matter of arms sales, the Secretary said there are three criteria:

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~

WICE SET

- 1) A bone fide military requirement for the items.
 - 2) The U.S. must be the "best source."
 - 3) The nation must have the financial resources to pay for it. The Secretary said the only exceptions are in this third area. For an exception, the President said a personal recommendation is necessary from the Secretary of State.
- The Secretary said that 90% of the nations meet that criteria. He said every action is reviewed by Secretary Rusk or Secretary Katzenbach.
- Secretary McNamara said he is very concerned about the current attack on Capitol Hill concerning our military assistance and sales. The Secretary said that these sales are very critical to our foreign policy.
- The Secretary said that the 10% exceptions are very extraordinary cases where a country cannot afford the purchases. He said other factors are involved. He cited the examples of sales to Jordan where the sale was personally endorsed by the government of Israel in a document signed by Abba Eban. The Secretary said that it was a choice between the U.S. supplying this and the Soviets supplying this, and the Israelis felt it would be best for the U.S. to supply this. The Secretary also mentioned Iran and Peru.
- The Secretary said that a calm appraisal by the Congress of this situation is very much needed.
- The Secretary reviewed his recent visit to Viet Nam and the so-called "stalemate." The Secretary said that the press corps in Viet Nam are more antagonistic now than they ever have been. He said there is no evidence of a stalemate. He said that military commanders in Viet Nam told him that they believe they have made substantial progress by stopping all the major enemy offensives. Roads have been opened where they were not before. Feeder roads have been opened to traffic.

~~MEETING NOTES COPYRIGHTED~~
~~SECRETARY McNAMARA~~
~~SECRETARY RUSK~~
~~SECRETARY KATZENBACH~~
~~SECRETARY JOHNSON~~

SERVICE SET

- On pacification, Secretary McNamara reported that this is proceeding very slowly. "This is nation building under the most difficult circumstances."
- The Secretary said the military believes there is a need for additional pressure.
- On the matter of troop levels, the Secretary said the President intends to send a mission out to discuss this problem. More assistance will be sought from the allies. More effective use needs to be made of the men already out in the field. Until these three things are done, the Secretary said that no number can be announced on the additional U.S. men who will be needed in Vietnam. The Secretary said that the current demands can be met from the present manpower structure and that it will not be necessary for the reserves to be called up.

Secretary Rusk said that some of the Congressmen who wanted us to do nothing on arms sales are the same ones who do not want us to go in to help another country when they are in peril. The Secretary said we must tell these Congressmen that either we help these countries now or show them that in the future we may have to go in with our assistance when these other countries are not able to defend themselves because of our failure now to supply them with arms they may need in the future.

The Secretary said that Secretary Wirtz, Secretary Boyd and Secretary McNamara held the effects of the recent rail strike to a minimum.

The President said we have been very fortunate. The President congratulated Secretary Wirtz for his efforts. Secretary Wirtz expressed his appreciation to all of the members of the Cabinet for their assistance. He explained that the Board was expected to convene during the first part of the week and that he contemplated a voluntary agreement. The Secretary said, as far as the political impact of the decision, most people realized it was a matter of no choice. The Secretary said he was very satisfied with the cooperation of the Cabinet members with a complete responsibility in assisting him. He said, "This was incomparable. No other country has this country's record of labor peace."

Secretary Boyd reported on the strike. He said that Monday morning 95% of the rail lines were down and as of Wednesday morning 98% of the service had been restored.

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SERVICES SET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President read a confidential memorandum from an Air Force General in Viet Nam to Secretary McNamara in which the General pointed out that the effectiveness of the air bombing in North Viet Nam has increased. The General told Secretary McNamara that the U. S. now has the initiative, that SAMs are not as much of a threat and that enemy anti-aircraft batteries have been pounded in many areas. The General said that the sites have not been bothered by MIGS and that the North Viet Nameese logistical system is under strain. The General reported there is no question about progress. He cited the facts that the loss rates on aircraft were down; that SAM firings were down; that anti-aircraft fire fluctuates, indicating a supply problem; that U. S. air missions are up; that the enemy air force has been fleeing and appears to be demoralized; that the Northeast Railroad has been disrupted; that there has been a substantial change in the speed of repairs on bridges and railroads; and that 1,000 box cars have been destroyed this month.

The General said there is a need to increase our pressure.

The President then discussed with the Cabinet the matter of the recent riots in Newark and elsewhere. He urged the Cabinet to do more on the problems with minority groups and with the cities.

The President said that although expenditures have been doubled in the last three years (\$12 billion in 1963 versus \$25 billion in 1967) that the problem is still with us. The President said we must do more. The flames are still burning. Congress must be shown what it does to us when such programs as model cities is reduced from a request of \$637 million to \$225 million and rent supplements is reduced from \$40 million to nothing.

The President said when various Congressmen begin to complain with problems with the riots then we should ask them what they were doing when we were trying to build programs and develop ideas through such programs as the model cities and rent supplements. The President said we are not getting our story over. The Vice President was asked to meet with Secretary Weaver, Attorney General Clark, Secretary Gardner and Secretary Wirtz to outline what the administration could be doing that it is not currently doing. The President said Joe Califano would meet with the group.

The President also asked the Vice President to meet with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of Agriculture,

the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Transportation to discuss the administration's communications problem. The President said it was particularly needed to discuss how we can communicate better with the Congress on our programs.

Postmaster General O'Brien concluded the Cabinet meeting by asking the Cabinet to submit a list department by department on the legislation which they believe can be moved out by Labor Day. The Secretary said he would ask each Cabinet member to remove or add to the list any items which they felt necessary.

The President said that he hoped each member of the Cabinet would work more with their Subcommittees in Congress to try to get them to meet more on Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays. The President said, "It looks like they go from one recess to another. We have got to be more effective with the Subcommittees. It is a disgrace that all the appropriations bills haven't passed by now."

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