

JULY 29, 1967 - 11:05 a.m.

DETROIT RIOT

Vice President  
Cyrus Vance,  
George Christian

70

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

July 29, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: <sup>Tom</sup>  
Tom Johnson

Attached are the notes of the Meeting of the President with Secretary Cyrus Vance on July 29, 1967.

Those attending:

The President  
The Vice President  
Secretary Cyrus Vance  
George Christian

The meeting began at 11:05. It ended at 11:40

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MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN THE  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, JULY 29, 1967

The President read the legal precedents for sending in troops, listing the various incidents in which troops have been requested by the Governors of the various states.

Secretary Vance made the point that Governor Romney felt that he was "arguing about the technicalities while Detroit burns." George Christian also said that no emphasis should be placed on the legal technicalities. The President responded by saying that it is legally necessary to show that a state of insurrection did exist and that local authorities were completely unable to handle the situation.

Secretary Vance made the following points:

1. Detroit is now close to normal
2. There were only a few incidents last night
3. Traffic has returned to normal
4. Most of the people are back at work
5. Street lights are on in almost all sections

Secretary Vance said that darkness creates fear. He said he had seen policemen shooting at shadows which did not exist.

6. The streets are now being cleaned up
7. There is a firm resolve in the community that the city will be rebuilt.
8. Secretary Vance authorized steps toward a phase out of the troops beginning yesterday.
9. The troops will be removed and placed in reserve locations on Sunday. Both Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh have been advised.
10. In summary, Detroit is almost back to normal.

The President read an FBI report. It showed that of 1044 arrests, 448 had previous arrest records. In Newark, there were 644 of 996 arrested who had previous records.

Secretary Vance gave the President a brief rundown on his activities Monday.

It included:

- 1:35 Depart Washington
- 3:10 Arrive Selfridge Air Force Base where he met General Throckmorton
- 4:10 Arrived downtown to meet with Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh

There had been no deployment of about 3,000 National Guard troops because the local authorities had been waiting on Secretary Vance. The Secretary told them, "Get them out on the streets right now." The situation appeared grave.

Secretary Vance toured the city with the Governor, General Throckmorton, and Mayor Cavanagh. This gave a picture of the physical layout and the actual incidents.

7:15 Returned to Command Post where FBI and Justice reports were received.

7:30 Met with Negro leaders, including Congressman Diggs and Congressman Conyers and NAACP officials. The issue was whether Federal troops should be used. Congressman Diggs said he felt the troops should be used. Congressman Conyers strongly disagreed, saying he thought it would inflame the situation with much more grave consequences. Secretary Vance said the majority were with Congressman Diggs.

Secretary Vance said he agreed with Congressman Conyers that troops should not be moved in yet, based on the fact that local troops had not been fully deployed.

8:15 A joint press conference was held. Governor Romney said the situation was "hopeful." Secretary Vance said later that Romney told him he had made this statement in order that he not appear that he was in disagreement with Secretary Vance.

Secretary Vance showed the President the telegram of the incident rates, and how his decision had been made based on that chart.

The President then read a poll which had been handed to him by Marvin Watson, showing that 79% of the American people say that the greatest problem facing

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us is racial.

Secretary Vance then told the President that he intended to return to Detroit tonight.

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