

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

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#138a notes	Notes from 11/28/67 - 1:40 p.m. meeting with Rusk, McNamara, Wheeler, Helms, Rostow, Christian, T. Johnson [Exempted NLJ 82-60] Top Secret 3 pp. Sanitized 5-30-75 NLS 92-380 Open 4/19/00 NLS 99-246	11/28/67	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 1

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NOVEMBER 29, 1967 - 1:40 p.m.

Secretary Rusk	Walt Rostow
Secretary McNamara	George Christian
General Wheeler	Tom Johnson
CIA Director Helms	

[This meeting was actually held on November 28.]

MEMORANDUM

138

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1967

11:30 a.m.

~~TOP SECRET~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached are the notes of your Tuesday luncheon meeting
on November 28.

Those attending were:

Secretary Rusk
Secretary McNamara
General Wheeler
CIA Director Helms

Mr. Walt Rostow
Mr. George Christian
Mr. Tom Johnson

The meeting began at 1:40 p.m. The meeting ended at 2:37 p.m.

~~TOP SECRET~~

PERMITTED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING:
BY DCH ON 12-11-81

SERVICE SET

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~NOFORN~~

Meeting began: 1:40 p.m.
Meeting ended: 2:37 p.m.

138a

~~TOP SECRET~~

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH
SECRETARY RUSK
SECRETARY McNAMARA
GENERAL WHEELER
CIA DIRECTOR HELMS
MR. WALT ROSTOW
MR. GEORGE CHRISTIAN
MR. TOM JOHNSON

November 29
1967
In the Mansion

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 99-246
By ia, NARA Date 4-5-00

Secretary Rusk said the Turks are pushing their luck. He said the Greeks will agree to the first three points but will not agree to point four of the proposal. He suggested giving Cyrus Vance a letter from the President asking for more time. The President approved the dispatch of the letter to Vance.

Secretary Rusk said the Greeks told the Cypriots that the Turks are bluffing..

The President said it also appears that the Russians want to see NATO nations fighting each other. Secretary Rusk agreed with that assessment. The President asked what response had the government received on its request about stationing additional B-52s in Thailand.

General Wheeler said that Air Force Chief of Staff McConnell was in Thailand. He said Ambassador Unger sent a message to the Thai Prime Minister and that "we are on the right track." General Wheeler said the Air Marshall is "relaxed" about it.

The President asked about the over-flight of B-52s over Laos.

Secretary Rusk said Souvanna Phouma had some problems with this. Secretary Rusk recommended night-time flying if this is possible.

General Wheeler said there are three aspects involved:

- (1) Recommends doing away with restriction against flying over Laos during the day and night. This will shorten the turn-around time, will permit the B-52s to get up to their twelve hundred sorties per month, and will cut down on operational cost.

[1 of 3]

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- (2) Even trained eyes cannot identify B-52s flying at 20,000 to 30,000 feet, and tell them apart from KC-135s which are permitted to fly over Laos now.
- (3) It is no longer necessary to couple strikes in South Vietnam with the flights out of Thailand since B-52s stationed on Guam are hitting areas in South Vietnam already.

The President approved the over-flights.

The President urged State and Defense to step up the additional troops from allied countries.

Secretary McNamara said Buttercup is proceeding slowly and needs a shove.

Secretary Rusk said he told Ambassador Bunker to move the operational aspects of Buttercup from Saigon.

Director Helms said he favors some operational movement.

Walt Rostow said he thought the Viet Cong release of three of our soldiers was enough to set loose three of the enemy soldiers.

Secretary Rusk said the L. A. Times is about to publish a book by Stuart Loory and David Kraslow. The book will include the code names of some of the peace probes. Secretary Rusk suggested that Bill Bundy make a speech rather than putting out a white paper. This would take a lot out of the book, particularly if Bundy used the code names.

The President suggested Bundy be put on Issues and Answers.

Secretary McNamara said the Canadians, the Italians and the Poles have "spilled their guts." He said there also have been leaks from the Executive Branch people.

He said he talked with the two writers and was surprised to learn how much information they have on Warsaw and on the connection between some of the peace offenses and the bombing. The Secretary suggested we "take some of the juice out of the story by using the code names prior to publication. We could torpedo them since the code names are not important except to people who have never heard them."

The Secretary pointed out, however, that it would have a lot of material which could prove to be embarrassing.

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There was a discussion of the Perkins Committee and a decision not to approve the request.

The President said Kosygin wrote me a letter, had his ambassador bring it in, and Chal Roberts writes most of it in the Washington Post this morning. He said it is inconceivable on how this could happen.

The President said that General Westmoreland never submitted any letter to me recommending General Walt to be Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Wheeler said it would have been highly inappropriate for General Westmoreland to have taken that step and he knew he did not. He said that General Westmoreland had written on a fitness report that General Walt would make a good Commandant of the Marine Corps, but that this appeared frequently on a fitness report and there was a similar recommendation on General Krulack's fitness report.

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