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#20 notes	handwritten notes on which #19 was based Possible Classified Information 5 p.	4/24/68	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 3

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APRIL 24, 1968 - 12:15 p.m.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

The President	Secretary Fowler
The Vice President	Walt Rostow
Secretary Rusk	Bromley Smith
Secretary Clifford	Nathaniel Davis
General Wheeler	Ambassador Bohlen
Secretary Nitze	Deputy Assistant Sec. of
CIA Director Helms	State Stoessel
Governor Farris Bryant	Tom Johnson

~~MEETING NOTES~~  
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Meeting began at: 12:15 p.m.  
Meeting ended at: 1.

NOTES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1968

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THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

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NII 86-154  
NARA, Dec 5-1587

The President  
The Vice President  
Secretary Rusk  
Secretary Clifford  
General Wheeler  
Secretary Nitze  
CIA Director Helms  
Governor Farris Bryant  
Secretary Fowler  
Walt Rostow  
Bromley Smith  
Nathaniel Davis  
Ambassador Bohlen  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Stoessel  
Tom Johnson

Secretary Rusk: In Eastern Europe there are three elements working:  
1. Personal initiative -- it is moving slowly toward a better role for the individual. 2. There is nostalgia toward western institutions in smaller countries, particularly among professional people. 3. Attempts to throw off sense of subordination from Soviet Union. (For instance, Romania wants to maintain independence; also similar evidence in Czechoslovakia.)

There is some continuing move, and some concern about same tendencies in Soviet Union.

There is danger in the possibility that the East Germans might try to create additional pressures with West as means of discipline of their own bloc.

The United States attitude should be low key. We should show no jubilation.

CIA Director Helms: I agree with the Secretary. We should let processes go forward without tinkering with them. It might be a mistake to roar into East-West trade bill. We should try to improve our trade relations with what we already have.

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Ambassador Bohlen: I agree with you. The role of the party is a revolutionary tool. Ideology has not gained acceptability, so now the party is tighter and more militaristic. We are seeing the beginning of the end of party rule with ideological link. The Czech movement is a result of this.

The President: What is your reaction to DeGaulle's statement on Hanoi.

Ambassador Bohlen: He was saluting you as a person when you decided not to run and was genuinely impressed with your peace move.

It seems to be a completely Hanoi move. DeGaulle will smile at us, but will not change his attitudes on monetary affairs and in relation to Great Britain.

Secretary Fowler: The Chinese have been heavy takers of gold. Speculation. There is a possibility of independent actions between Eastern European countries aside from IMF and the World Bank. There is a definite relationship between operations of these countries and their relations with institutions around the world. Easter European AID programs follow Moscow party line. The coordination of programs is very important.

Secretary Rusk: At the time of the Asian Development Bank, the Soviets hinted they would participate.

Secretary Fowler: The Soviets sat through the initial meetings. They have not done anything. However, it has been useful to keep coordination going.

The President: What more can we do?

Secretary Rusk: P. L. 480 bars door to countries giving aid to Vietnam. We can do some on bilateral trade basis. They take the favored nations formula, however.

Secretary Fowler: There are tensions between countries on COMICON because of trading at inflated prices with Soviets on raw material purchases.

Secretary Rusk: There is a need to see if there are COCOM pacts which prevent exchange of information by these people when they get home.

Secretary Fowler: They have work superior to ours in some areas.

The Vice President: What about U. S. participation in trade fairs?

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Secretary Rusk: This is a question of money. We must talk to Rooney and Commerce.

Secretary Clifford: Nationalism may spread to other countries. If countries are beginning to break away, we may find some military pressure. We need to do some more contingency planning with State.

Ambassador Bohlen: Chances of intervention was whether they opt out of Warsaw Pact. That's what happened with Hungary.

CIA Director Helms: Liberalism in Czechoslovakia started as an economic matter. Soviets came down hard on this trend in papers.

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