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#49 notes	Notes from 6/4/68 - 1:45 p.m. President's Tuesday Luncheon [Sanitized NLJ 87-31] Secret 4 pp.	6/4/68	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 3

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JUNE 5, 1968 - 1:45 p.m.

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PRESIDENT'S TUESDAY LUNCHEON

The President	Walt Rostow
Secretary Rusk	Justice Fortas
Secretary Clifford	General Taylor
General Wheeler	George Christian
CIA Director Helms	Tom Johnson

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 5, 1968
5:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached are notes from the President's Tuesday Luncheon.
The meeting began at 1:45 p.m. and ended at 3:00 p.m.

Those attending the meeting were:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Wheeler
CIA Director Helms
Walt Rostow
Justice Fortas
General Taylor
George Christian
Tom Johnson

Attachment

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NOTES ON THE PRESIDENT'S TUESDAY LUNCHEON

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JUNE 4, 1968

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 87-31

By ing, NARA, Date 6-20-89

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Wheeler
CIA Director Helms
Walt Rostow
Justice Fortas
General Taylor
George Christian
Tom Johnson

The President: The Trejos meeting was a good one. They have some population problems and are not too happy about all the conditions placed on World Bank loans.

Are ~~they~~ still in Saigon, Clark?

Secretary Clifford: We are in some trouble. It does not appear to be too serious. Westy (General Westmoreland) said they always can infiltrate small groups in.

Westy said a linear defense system around Saigon is not practical. It would take two divisions and would not do much better.

General Wheeler: The Vietnamese appointed General Minh to run the Saigon defense -- ARVN, police, RF and PF.

The President: Would you brief us, Dick. (CIA Director Helms)

Director Helms: There are new elements around Khesanh. There were 83 defectors to ARVN last night. Heavy men and material flow continues into the South. There have been no MIG flights below 20th. We found 100 mm weapons around DMZ. Thieu disagrees on general mobilization in the House.

Walt Rostow: General Abrams and Ambassador Berger called on Ky. He was in a black mood. He talked of resigning ~~about~~ ^{over} men being shot up by our helicopter. We have a potential problem with Ky and General Thang. Killing his allies has put him very down in the dumps. It is a very serious problem.

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The President: What happened on that chopper, Bus?

General Wheeler: South Vietnam called for chopper support. One rocket of flight of three went erratic. It landed in the command post area and killed the men who directed the operation. This was an accident. It was unfortunate.

Secretary Clifford: The President may want to show great concern. One of the men killed was Ky's brother-in-law. It is something of a national tragedy. The President may want to send some Government official to the funeral. Real concern must be shown. Ky may not think it was an accident.

The President: How do you get through the Senate with only Senator Young against you.

General Wheeler: I have a simple recipe-- stay out of politics.

The President: Where are we on Thieu's visit?

Secretary Rusk: A visit to Washington during June wouldn't be good with all these demonstrations.

Secretary Clifford: General Wheeler and I need to go to South Vietnam after General Abrams gets in. I want to get closer to the situation. We may go in July, depending on the President's wishes.

Walt Rostow: Warren Christopher says mid or late July would be best from Resurrection City standpoint (July 24-25 open) for Thieu visit. Your calendar has the above dates open.

Secretary Clifford: I was for Thieu coming before. Now with Paris going on I would be for indefinite postponement.

The President: What effect will the convention have on Thieu's visit?

Secretary Clifford: I don't know.

The President: Do you believe Ky may think we did that deliberately?

Secretary Clifford: Some indications are that he may feel that.

The President: Is it true that a man can buy his way out of the South Vietnamese draft?

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General Wheeler: Not that I know of.

The President: I thought it was good that 83 men came over to our side.

I get long letters from my reporter out there -- Chuck Robb. He said all the peasants want is to be left alone.

Dean, what kind of vote will we get on NPT. (Non proliferation treaty)

Secretary Rusk: A good vote, I think. It looks like a good vote. It is coming out of the General Assembly well.

The President: What about Israeli--Jordan fighting?

Secretary Rusk: There is some fighting. [REDACTED] These attacks are uncalled for.

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The President: The President read Chuck Robb's letter to him about fighting in Vietnam, Lynda and hope that HHH would be next President.

Secretary Rusk: It would be good to have two people work on the Israeli-Arab question.

The President: Will DeGaulle pull this one out?

Secretary Rusk: I think he will.

CIA Director Helms: I think DeGaulle will make it. Frenchmen will see it through.

Secretary Rusk: Ambassador Bohlen thinks DeGaulle will come back stronger than before.

The President: It looks as though the rioting is spreading to Italy. What will happen to Moro?

Secretary Rusk: He may not be Prime Minister after this. I think we should go for full offset.

The President: Secretary Clifford and Symington ought to confer. Then they should go to him to see what ways we can cut.

Walt Rostow: Our financial people are talking with the head of the International Monetary Fund to see if we should take any actions

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to booster the pound and the franc. If there could be an upward evaluation of the German Mark, it would be helpful.

19TH AND 20TH PARALLEL

The President: Ambassador Harriman recommends deferring this.

Secretary Rusk: I am for air to air action now. We can hold up 48 hours on ground action. Let's take gradual approach.

Secretary Clifford: Cy Vance went over reconnaissance approach. He said he would prefer specific targets. The Joint Chiefs have those targets.

Secretary Rusk: Let's hit them and not say anything about it.

General Wheeler: We reviewed targeting. We located two bridges on railroads and a railroad siding. The railroad is being used.

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