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#63a notes	<p>Notes from 7/2/68 - 1:20 p.m. Tuesday luncheon Secret 3 pp. <i>sanitized 6-20-89 NLJ 87-31</i></p>	7/2/68	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 3

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TUESDAY LUNCHEON, JULY 2, 1968
Family Dining Room

Those attending the meeting were:

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

SERVICE SET

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

July 2, 1968

3:15 p.m.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Tom

FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached are notes of the President's meeting with the Tuesday Luncheon group. The meeting was held in the Family Dining Room. Those attending the meeting were:

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

The meeting began at 1:20 p.m. and ended at 2:35 p.m.

Attachment

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By Delet, NARA, Date 3-6-91

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NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE
TUESDAY LUNCHEON GROUP, JULY 2, 1968

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

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

SANITIZED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 87-31

By ing, NARA, Date 6-20-89

The President: Do we have anything on the MIG attack?

Secretary Clifford: No, only the press release.

Secretary Rusk: No.

General Wheeler: We are checking. The Special Forces camps are being checked to see where the press got the story.

Secretary Rusk: I think they should be tough on the pilot of the DC-8 which was downed in Russia.

Secretary Clifford: We handled that well. The plane is released. We made quick apologies. It could have been an equipment error. It was a new plane.

General Wheeler: The Captain of that plane has made that flight 19 times. They think it was a navigational error.

Secretary Rusk: How about the Symington amendment.

Secretary Clifford: Senator Russell said the Symington Amendment would pass and he probably will vote for it. Senator Mansfield will vote for it too.

We have 35,000 coming back, leaving 300,000. It will cut us back to 50,000. They will be practically defenseless and it would destroy NATO. We need a plan to reduce our forces, but I think it is impossible to keep our forces there.

We have two plans:

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1 -- cuts out the fat.

2 -- cuts out 50,000.

Walt Rostow: We won't get NPT signing if this happens.

Secretary Clifford: That's right. There is a thaw in the Soviets now. We may be able to get a reduction on both sides.

The President: All members of the Democratic Policy Committee feel this should be done. Senator Russell and I talked about this last week. He was very blunt about it. Senator Mansfield feels we haven't kept faith by pulling out as many as we should have.

All of you see as many of these Senators as you can. We do not want to cut out any of our muscle. We will cut out the fat. Senator Dirksen is very pro-German. He does not want to open another front by drawing down his forces in Europe.

Secretary Clifford: Crawford Greenwalt has agreed to go to work.

PARIS TALKS

Secretary Rusk: We had a good meeting yesterday. We should not put forth what Phase II should be yet. Vance and Harriman should press for a private meeting on that subject. Hanoi is up against a major obstacle.

Something is stirring on the other side. Still we must know what they would do if we stop bombing.

If you approve, we will seek a private meeting on Phase II.

The President: That is fine.

The President: Is the plane announcement Okay?

Secretary Rusk: I think so.

The President: Has it been announced?

George Christian: It leaked.

The President: Where?

George Christian: At the Department of Defense.

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The President: How?

Secretary Clifford: I will get on it. How do you know it was the Department of Defense?

George Christian: I checked AP. They said it came from there.

MID EAST

Secretary Rusk: Here is a telegram. It sets up Ambassador Ball's trip to the Middle East: Tel Aviv, Jordan, Beirut. He will come back by way of Japan. I would send Joe Sisco.

The President: That's Okay.

Ambassador Ball: That will be fine.

General Wheeler: Is Jarring back?

Ambassador Ball: No, he is in Europe.

General Wheeler: [REDACTED] AS

Secretary Rusk: [REDACTED] AS

CIA Director Helms: He is linguistic.

(The President read draft cable)

The President: Leave III and V until later.

Walt Rostow: That's fine. There are some questions in cable. The present formulation would limit us. Could we get a phrase to take care of this

Secretary Rusk: We will look at them.

Secretary Clifford: On the list of Colonels to be promoted to General is the 1st Negro to become a general officer. -- General Davis.

We are having a very tough time getting \$3 billion in expenditures.

Secretary Rusk: What is our position on ABM.

Secretary Clifford: We will push ahead in Fiscal 69, just as planned. We may have to stretch.

Secretary Rusk: Let's go ahead with research and development.

Secretary Clifford: We will.

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