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#67 notes #68	Handwritten notes from 7/26/68 - 7 p.m. meeting with Richard Nixon [Sanitized NLJ 87-31] Secret 13 pp. <i>Open 10-29-98 NLJ 97-313</i> duplicate of document #67	7/26/68	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 3

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Nixon

7:00 p.m.

26 July

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Rusk: We are trying to find out what would happen if we stop the bombing. Hanoi is giving serious consideration to us

Nixon: Any Soviet reaction?

Thompson said only if we would stop all the bombing

Rusk: They give general enticement. Soviets have been discussing these things with Hanoi. They do not want to push Hanoi wholly into the arms of Peking. We are working that side of street

Pres.: We have said to both if we stop bombing, what?

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 97-313

By iso, NARA Date 10-8-98

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SERVICE SET

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Nixon: My own advisers want to stop bombing. The public wants to go the extra mile. This is one piece of leverage you have left.

Rush: That's right. It also is an important military factor. Also, if NVN were not being bombed they have no incentive to do anything.

Nixon: Is there any indication that they are hurting?

Rush: They are willing to listen.

N: What would make them talk seriously?

Rush: 100,000 casualties since Jan.
Only women in field.

Rusk: There was no reason why guerrillas had stopped sending men into Greece. There is no obj. reason why Berlin blockade was lifted.

Nixon: There is a barrage of propaganda. It erodes firm liners on GOP side. It will take a lot to keep GOP candidates from running away from it.

Rusk: Hanoi says no to all of our proposals.

Nixon: Rockefeller proposal was to show good faith. Hell, we already have been showing good faith.

Pres. we had 5-6 pauses
we now lifted bombing
against 78% of land & 98%
of people.

Nixon. It is right pres. You can only
have one Pres & one Sec of State

Pres. I was encouraged by Honolulu
conference.

Rostow told Pres Eisenhower
that it would be psychological
victory but not a military
victory

He said a stronger government
would come out of it.

Enter Rostow

6:45

Rostow. 40 performed with excellence; 8 were undisciplined. 100+ battalions gave good performance under US standards.

Pres. At Honolulu, we endorsed again one-man, one-vote and right to decide own govt. We will not put coalition govt over them unless they choose it.

Pres ^{then} stood for one-man, one-vote.

If a man says he will give up violence & accept constitution, he not only can vote but also can run for office.

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Thien is prepared to take risk to
give them chance to take active
parts.

Pursuit of power by violence—
so long as violence ^{violence} ~~power~~
he can run.

Will not let NCF run as party

Nixon: Sematis are big part
of problem.

Rostow: It could be cosmetic
or means to a Communist
takeover.

Rusk: South Vs aren't up against
a decision like this that will
bring peace

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Rostow

- (1) One-man, one-vote agreed to
- (2) Then said we would be prepared to discuss total cessation of hostilities
- (17) Anytime ready to sit down, we are prepared to go into it.

Nixon: We would support ceasefire. It is how you go about it that is difficult.

Rostow: We can define ceasefire. So can they.

Nixon: Everybody is for cease-fire if they cease.

Restow 3rd thing was for
normalization of relations
with NUN.

Pres: Pueblo. Many felt
we should have attacked
to save ships. Many felt
we should have brought
planes in. All we could
have done was sink ship.
We have tried thru 3rd
parties we will be glad to
make apology based on
facts.

Rusk: Soviets have tried
to be helpful

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Nixon: When Pres. meets with
Soviets, you must answer this?
Can we do anything until
Vietnam is off the burner.

P. We have our responsibilities
We will stand by them.

Nixon: What is private attitude
of Japs, Thais,

Nations out there are stronger
because of our presence there

Rush: Burma is strong. Japs
are strong. Haven't changed.
Philippines could do more.

Nixon: I say look at this.

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Nixon. Problem of a candidate
is a new one. Most important
thing I need reassurance on
is the commitment.

Main point is that we are there
for a reason. Your San
Antonio speech made that
clear.

I have admired way all of
you have stood up through
great fire.

This is a hard time.

What has happened to US
public opinion?

Congress is a bunch of jilly at
this time.

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Reuk: we have captured 48
battalions of equipment in Un.

Nixon: I know Cushman.
Where has the war been lost?

Reuk: In the editorial rooms
of this country.

Nixon: I do not intend to
advocate a bombing pause.

Pres: On foreign aid, any
Pres. who is in my place
next Jan. will be concerned
about our foreign aid
situation.

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We have had substantial
cuts.

Rush : : 1.97 in Senate
1.94 in House

Hope it isn't 1.6 or 1.5. That
would be bad

We asked for 2.9. They have
cut it \$1 billion.

Mem. I told them to vote against
it for political reasons but
to vote for it for statesman-
like reasons. We need it.

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Meeting at Honolulu occurred.

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