

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

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#70a notes	Notes from 7/30/68 - 1 p.m. Foreign Policy Advisors Luncheon [Sanitized NLJ-CBS 40] Top Secret 4 pp. <i>open 1-12-93 NLJ 91-336</i>	7/30/68	A
#71 notes	Handwritten notes from 7/30/68 meeting Top Secret 13 pp. <i>open 11-22-99</i>	7/30/68	A

FILE LOCATION Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 3

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69
JULY 30, 1968 - 1 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS
LUNCHEON MEETING

The President
Sec. Rusk
Sec. Clifford
General Taylor
General Wheeler

CIA Director Helms
George Christian
Bromley Smith
Tom Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1968

7 p. m.

~~TOP SECRET~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached are the notes of your meeting with Foreign Policy Advisers in the Mansion on July 30, 1968.

Attending the meeting were:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Taylor
General Wheeler

CIA Director Helms
George Christian
Bromley Smith (in Walt
Rostow's absence)
Tom Johnson

The meeting began at 1 p. m. The meeting ended at 2:05 p. m.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By DCH, NARA, Date 3-6-91

SERVICE SET

~~TOP SECRET~~

Meeting began: 1:00 p.m.
Meeting ended: 2:05 p.m.

700

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS

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30 July 1968
In the Mansion

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 91-336
By 10, NARA, Date 1-5-93

Attending the meeting were:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Taylor
General Wheeler

CIA Director Helms
George Christian
Bromley Smith (in Walt Rostow's
absence)
Tom Johnson

The President: I want a report from General Taylor on the whole situation regarding this new wave of demands to stop the bombing and all of the facts about enemy activities and the level of fighting.

General Taylor: I will do that, sir.

The President: I believe the International Communists have a movement under way to get me to stop the bombing. What is the situation on infiltrators?

General Wheeler: As of July 24, there were:

28,400 infiltrators who started down in March
37,700 infiltrators who started down in April
30,600 infiltrators who started down in May
16,900 infiltrators who started down in June
14,200 infiltrators who started down in July

The President: What effect would a complete bombing halt have?

General Wheeler: It would permit 30% more troops and supplies to reach South Vietnam.

Secretary Rusk: It would add 50% to what is getting through now.

The President: Let's say that. I would like General Wheeler to summarize the reasons we should not stop the bombing.

General Wheeler: We have 120 miles of attack zone to hit enemy supplies now. We have had good luck, getting 30% of the traffic. This increment would move into the DMZ and up to the DMZ if the bombing stopped.

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General Wheeler: We have hit them hard in this area. There would be a loss of morale in the U. S. forces in the DMZ area. It gives the military a disadvantage.

The President: Give me a paper on it.

General Wheeler: The JCS does oppose a complete bombing pause.

Secretary Rusk: The Czech situation is going. Bohlen says the odds are 51 - 49 against the USSR using force. I think there are 60 - 40 odds against the USSR using force, but nobody knows what they will do.

Director Helms: They put out a list of items in Czechoslovakia today that people may not write about. I put it at 75 - 25 that the Soviets will not move.

Secretary Clifford: The Russian demands are tough.

Secretary Rusk: Bohlen feels these are "gut" issues.

The President: Put in the Kosygin letter that we agree to their suggestion of a meeting in a month or one and a half months. See if they will agree to the highest level, Prime Minister level, or people in Geneva.

I would like to see Bill Bundy for a report on his talks with the Allies.

Now, Bus, I read about all this offensive they plan for us. What are we doing?

General Wheeler: Abrams is trying to pre-empt their attacks. He is using B-52s to hit their staging areas. He wants U. S. commands to intercept these people.

Secretary Clifford: When we were in South Vietnam, we asked all U. S. field commanders if they have all the men, equipment, and supplies needed for any offensive. All field commanders said yes. Our men want them to go ahead with the offensive.

The President: I would like to see us knock the hell out of them.

General Taylor: Is it to our advantage to keep a third attack from coming out?

The President: Westmoreland said it is to our advantage for them to go ahead with the offensive.

Director Helms: It would permit us to concentrate against them in large numbers.

General Wheeler: I would open up the area between the 19th and 20th parallels. We could hit logistic targets, operate Sea Dragon, conduct air-to-air operations and hit their airfield.

The President: Let's review that Friday morning to see how we would react if they hit Saigon.

I want to get back up to the 20th parallel. Let's get ready for that if they hit us.

Dean, you go out to Vance and Harriman and tell them to hold on to their hats if attacks against our forces occur.

General Wheeler: Saigon, Danang and Quang Tri are possible targets of major attacks, Abrams says.

General Taylor: Should Vance and Harriman tell opposite members?

Secretary Rusk: It might be seen as a threat. They may see it as a dare.

The President: I would like for them to know they will be hit and hit hard if they attack us.

Secretary Rusk: They would see us telling them that we would hit them as a threat.

Secretary Clifford: On Cambodia, here are the bases in Cambodia - "Parrots Beak" area is of much concern. (Shows maps of the area.)

General Wheeler: Two years ago there were only 200 people there. Now there are 2,000 people there. The 9th Viet Cong division goes back in there to rehabilitate and rest. There may be prisoner of war camps in there.

Secretary Clifford: We will send reconnaissance flights in.

General Wheeler: We will have five low-level flights.

The President: Senator Mansfield says Sihanouk is a great statesman. I would show him these maps and photos of the enemy positions.

General Wheeler: It is 25 miles from Saigon. They can get in sampans and hit us easily in Saigon.

Secretary Clifford: It appears that diplomatic efforts will not get the release of our men the Cambodians are holding.

We could discourage the U.S. tourists to Cambodia as "dangerous under present conditions." We could not protest.

Secretary Rusk: U.S. tourist trade amounts to 1/4 of Cambodia's tourist trade (\$1 million.)

Secretary Clifford: We could supervise the Mekong traffic and make it difficult for Cambodian ships. We might apprehend a Cambodian ship if it violates GVN territorial waters.

We could increase surveillance and as the last alternative, we could attack the VC staging area.

The President: I look with favor on showing these pictures to Sihanouk. Give them a strong statement.

Director Helms: There is another staging area up north.

The President: Bring those photos in.

#

~~TOP SECRET~~

REVISED

Tuesday, July 30, 1968

Luncheon with the President
Tuesday, July 30, 1968 1:00 P.M.

Agenda

1. Czech-Soviet Confrontation -- Secretary Rusk

Report on the current situation. We may have first reports of results of today's meeting in Slovakia.

2. Vietnam Public Information Problems -- Secretary Rusk

Follow-up actions on Secretary Rusk's press conference including the question of Hanoi's "restraint" and intelligence on the current military lull.

3. Strategic Missile Talks with USSR -- Secretary Rusk

Report on staff work being done on substantive positions.

4. Proposed Law of the Sea Conference -- Secretary Rusk

Report on results of private talks with the Russians and discussion of whether we should jointly proceed to an international conference.

5. Cambodia

A. Report by Secretary Clifford on the enemy build-up in the Cambodian sanctuaries.

B. Report by Secretary Rusk of efforts to free U.S. Navy personnel being held following capture off Cambodia.

6. Other

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By Doc, NARA, Date 3-6-91

Bromley Smith

BKS:amc

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30 July 1968 21

1:00

Pres. 10

Rusk 20

Clifford 30

Taylor 40

Wheeler 50

Helms 60

Christian 70

Smith (in Rostow's Absence) 80

Johnson 90

DECLASSIFIED , NLS 91-336

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Dept. Guidelines

By John NARA, Date 11-8-99

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Pres- I want a report from Gen'l

Taylor on the whole situation

Re: this new wave of demands

to stop bombing and all of

the facts about their activities

and level of fighting

Taylor: I will do that, sir.

SERVICE SET

617

Pres- Int'l Communist group has
movement underway to get us to
stop bombing

Gen'l Wheeler.

As of 24 July

28,400 March started Down

37,700 April

30,600 May

16,900 June

14,200 July

Into SUN

65-70,000 in SUN

320 infil. groups of 170,000 men

Decline

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P- What effect would halt have?

Wheeler: 30% more troops + supplies.

Rusk: Add 50% to what is getting thru now

Pres: Let's say that.

I would like Gen'l Wheeler to summarize reasons we should not stop

W: We have 120 mi of Attack zone to hit enemy supplies. We have had good luck, getting 30%

This increment would move into DM2 + up to DM2

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Wheeler: We have hit them hard
in this Area.

There would be loss of
morale in U.S. forces in
DMZ area

It gives military a
disadvantage.

Pres: Give me a paper.

Wheeler: JCS does oppose it

Rusk: Czech situation is going
on. ^{Bohlen} 51% 49% Against USSR using force
^{Rusk} 60% - 40% adds " " " "

Nobody knows what they will
do.

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Helm: They put out list ~~that~~ of items in Czech today, people may not write about.

I put it 75% that they will not move

CC: Russian demands are tough.

Rusk: Bohlen feels there are "gut" issues

Pres: Put in K letter we take suggestion of month or 1 1/2 months. See if "you would want" see if they agree to highest level, PM level, or people in Geneva.

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Pres- I would like to see Bill Bundy
to report on Allies.

Now, Bas I read about all
this offensive they plan ~~to~~
for us.

Wheeler: Abrams is trying to preempt
their attacks. He is using
BS20 to hit their staging
Areas.

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He wants command to intercept
these people

CC: When we were in SON, we asked
all men if they have all
men, equipment, and supplies
for any offensive. All full
Commanders say yes.

SERVICE SET

CC: Our men want them to
go ahead.

Pres: I would like to see us knock
hell out of them.

Taylor: Is it to our advantage
to get 3rd attack from
coming out.

Pres: Westmoreland said it is

Helm: It would concentrate
against them.

Wheeler: I would open up area
between 19th + 20th

parallel. 1st logistic
target + Sea Dragon,
+ air-to-air, + airfield

Pres: Let's do that Friday morning. See how we would react if they hit Saigon

Taylor: Let's get rid of 14-20th parallel to use our weapons against target that need to be hit

Pres: I want to get back up to 20th. Let's get ready for that if they hit us.

Let's don't say anything more about concentration of bombing

Dean, you go out to Vance & Horner & tell them to hold on to hats if attacks occur

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Wheeler: Saigon, Danang and Qui Nhon
are possible targets of major
attacks. Abrams says

Taylor: Should V-H tell opposite
numbers

Park: It might be ~~seen~~ seen
as a threat. They may
dare us.

Pres: I would like for them to
know they will be hit &
hit hard if they hit us.

Dean: They would see us telling
them that we would
hit them as a threat

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CAMBODIA

CC: Here are the bases in
Cambodia

"Parrot's Beak" Area is of much
concern.

Wheeler: 2 years ago there were only
200 people there. Now
there are 2000 people
there.

9th VC Division goes back
in there to rehabilitate + rest.
There are PW camps in there.

CC: We will send recon flights in

Wheeler: We will send 5 low-level
flights over

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[10]

Pres. Mansfield says Sihanouk
is great statesman. I
would show him this

Whet. It is 75 miles from Saigon

They can get in sampans
and hit us easily in
Saigon.

CC: Diplomatic efforts will not
release men.

We could discourage U.S. tourists
to Cambodia as "dangerous under
present conditions. We could
not protest

Perle: It amounts to 1/4 of Cambodia's
tourist trade (\$1 million)

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CC: We could supervise
the ~~mine~~ Mekong traffic
and make it difficult

We might apprehend Cambodian
ship if it violates GVN
territorial waters

Increase surveillance

Last alternative: attack
VC staying area.

Pres: What are we waiting on?

Let's see about this.

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Pres: I look with favor on
showing these pictures
to Sihanouk.

○ Give them a strong statement.

Helms: There is another one
up north.

Pres: Bring those in.

Rush: Territorial sea

Pres: Talk to Magnuson / St.

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