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#80 notes	Typed notes from 8/20/68 meeting [Sanitized NLJ-CBS 40] Secret 4 pp.  9-17-96 NLJ 9698	8/20/68	A

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### AUGUST 20, 1968 - 2:05 p.m.

## TUESDAY LUNCH WITH FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
Ambassador Ball
General Westmoreland

Director Helms Walt Rostow George Christian Tom Johnson

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Meeting began: 2:05p.m. Meeting ended: 2:36 p.m.

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### NOTES ON PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH TUESDAY LUNCHEON GROUP

AUGUST 20, 1968

#### THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

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

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The President: We need to check the problems of troops in Chicago if riots develop at time of convention.

General Westmoreland: We have worked out detailed plans on contingency basis.

The President Mayor Daley is calling up troops (National Guard) today.

Secretary Clifford: We have had a group working on this for some weeks. All hell could break loose.

The President: What about 3rd wave?

CIA Director Helms: The enemy is in position to have 3rd wave. It will probably come out like measles in next ten days to two weeks.

The President: We really don't know?

CIA Director Helms: Yes.

General Westmoreland: Attacks are associated with major offensive in Northern I Corps and III Corps near Saigon. This is a prelude to a general offensive. I expect it about the 24th or 25th at the beginning of the convention.

Secretary Clifford: They can go either way. They are ready.

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Secretary Rusk: I am not sure what their military men believe they are capable of doing. They may be allergic to these political orders.

Walt Rostow: I honestly don't know what they will do.

General Westmoreland: I think their attacks are diversionary.

<u>Walt Rostow</u>: There was a low rate of infiltrators this month. This possibly indicates they will keep the forces in place.

Secretary Rusk: They brought in replacements beforehand.

Walt Rostow: My mind is more open than a few days ago.

General Westmoreland: The capability is there. We have pre-empted much of their attacks.

General Westmoreland: The South Vietnamese are stronger.

Secretary Rusk: We have a message in on Strategic Missile talks in Geneva on September 30 after the end of the non-nuclear conference.

They are prepared to announce on the 22nd. September 30 is not a good date. We should have it earlier or later. It will be at the level of the special delegation -- not foreign ministers.

The President: We need the dates of exchanges with the Soviets including Glassboro. Begin with the January 64 letter on the day of the Howard University speech.

I will talk to Mansfield and Fulbright tomorrow.

Secretary Clifford: This whole proceeding in this government has gone well.

The President: That is right. We should say we have been preparing for these talks.

Secretary Clifford: This is a matter of great public interest.

The President: Do you have any comment on this, George (Ambassador Ball)?

Ambassador Ball: No, not on this.

Secretary Rusk: It is good to have these talks at a technical level.

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The President: Get an announcement on Tab A.

Ambassador Ball: I'm depressed with the Middle East situation.

Eban has backslid. They are digging in. The Israelis do not intend to do anything. Dayan told me "We have never had such peace." They will sit on real estate for a long time.

Also, Hussein will lose his job. Terrorists are becoming active. We'll get radical government in Jordan -- also Saudi Arabia -- perhaps in Egypt.

The Arabs may go much more radical. There is a state of ambivalence.

The President: Should we give them phantoms before or after our talks with the Soviets?

Ambassador Ball: Wait until after meeting, but tell the Soviets so they don't feel hoodwinked. They used Skyhawks in the raid on Jordan. The Foreign Ministers will all be in New York on the first of October.

Walt Rostow: They are not sure they will get the plane. Tomorrow's announcement will shake them.

We should say don't be inflexible -- exchange substantive views through Jarring.

The President: Tell them they should do 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and then we are prepared to move on Phantoms.

The President: Who is in the group I'm to meet with?

### Secretary Clifford:

Rusk, Rostow, Foster, Clifford, Wheeler, Helms, AEC

The President: Can Hanoi move until they see who is nominated and what his views are?

Secretary Rusk: We will not get a movement before the convention.

Secretary Clifford: I see nothing to suggest they will attach significance to the convention.

Secretary Rusk: Vance got the impression that this is a holding action at Paris.

The President: Will they seriously negotiate before the convention?

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Secretary Clifford: I agree they will not.

Ambassador Ball: I agree

The President: Is Ball crying over there about his instructions.

Secretary Rusk: I would not think so.

Secretary Clifford: What reaction did we get from Averill Harriman on your Press Conference?

Secretary Rusk: "I hope we would not undermine the March 31 statement."

The President: The Pope was turned down by Hanoi. What about the Norway thing?

Secretary Rusk: They feel the Paris talks are too direct and too publicized.

Ambassador Ball: McCarthy has a fundamental shift in his position. He wants an interim coalition to prepare for election.

Secretary Rusk: Tonight's meeting with the Platform Committee will raise question on the Middle East, ABM, USS Liberty.

General Westmoreland: We are bombing trucks laden with war materiel.

The President: The Christian Science Monitor said today that the greatest number of infiltrators got through in the period when we were doing the most bombing below the 20th.

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### Lunch Meeting With the President Tuesday, August 20, 1968 - 1:00 p.m.

#### AGENDA

- 1. Sec. Rusk's Testimony Before the Democratic Platform Committee
  This Evening, Tuesday, Aug. 20. (The President)
- 2. Soviet Agreement to Talk About Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Explosions.
  (Sec. Rusk)

Tab A, attached, contains the Soviet acceptance. Before the announcement is made, there are certain issues which are being cleared up between Bill Foster and Amb. Dobrynin, at Sec. Rusk's direction. You may wish to consider at lunch the timing of an announcement.

3. Strategic Missile Talks. (The President, Sec. Rusk and Sec. Clifford)

You may wish to give your initial reaction to the proposal forwarded to you at the Ranch. Attached at Tab B is a rather responsible Soviet official suggesting:

- -- We shall hear officially by the end of this week;
- -- All Soviets envisage the opening of the talks at mid-September.
- 4. The Third Wave? (Sec. Clifford, Mr. Helms)
- 5. Other.

Note: You may wish to encourage the group to speculate about basic Soviet strategy in U.S.-Soviet relations at this stage, including the relationship to possible moves against Czechoslovakia or to recovery from the setback with Czechoslovakia, if they accept it.

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By M., NARA, Date 9

W. W. Rostow