SEPTEMBER 12, 1968 - 1:39 p.m.

TUESDAY LUNCH WITH FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS

The President Secretary Rusk Secretary Clifford Director Helms George Christian Tom Johnson

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Meeting began: 1:39 p.m. Meeting ended: 2:37 p.m.

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NOTES ON MEETING WITH TUESDAY LUNCHEON GROUP, SEPTEMBER 12, 1968

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
CIA Director Helms
George Christian
Tom Johnson

Secretary Rusk: We expect a call during lunch on the status of the Paris talks today.

The President: Fine, let's go on.

Walt Rostow: Ambassador Bunker has a good report on Vietnam. It shows action in land reform and other areas.

The President: Huong has a good image with our press. Let's get him before them more.

Should we brief the Congress, Dean? Your briefings with the leadership have been good.

Secretary Rusk: The sessions were more relaxed than I have had before.

The President: Clark (Secretary Clifford), who called whom on the call to the Vice President?

Secretary Clifford: He called me about his statement on troop withdrawal. I told him I had not predicted any U. S. troops would come home next year. Thieu has. Also, he asked if it were true a Marine unit was coming home now. I said yes, but it is a rotation.

Secretary Clifford: The Vice President has had three flubs.

1. Withdrawal of troops.

2. Minority plank vs. majority plank.

3. Bringing Marin unit home now.

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He needs a man with him every day we trust and respect to give him correct guidance.

Secretary Rusk: Thinking should be done before rather than after. Tom Hughes would be good.

The President: 1. I want the Vice President to win. 2. I want the Democratic Party to win. They are better. No question of Humphrey against anybody. 3. I have told the Cabinet not to let the record of its Departments be distorted. I want the Cabinet to do what is appropriate to help the Vice President.

Where I help depends on where the Vice President wants me to help.

Secretary Rusk: I would like to have a briefing session with Humphrey. Does he want to show a little space between us and his position.

The President: He wants space. In his heart he is with us, but he thinks it is politically wise to keep space.

Secretary Clifford: Nixon's representative on the Department of Defense wants to see me on personnel and future programs at the Department of Defense.

I was called to appear before the Senate on Fortas. I want to do anything I can to help Abe.

The President: I do not think it would be wise. Nixon wants to appoint the Chief Justice. Southerners want to change the structure of the Court.

<u>Walt Rostow</u>: There is procedural progress, but no substantive progress. We will meet privately Mondays and Fridays. Averill and Cy believe other side does not understand Manila Formula.

<u>CIA Director Helms</u>: Moscow is blue with rumors of change in the leadership. There may be some sort of consultation over power structure.

Secretary Rusk: Brezhnevwill probably be the sacrificial lamb.

The President: What is the situation on the NPT?

Secretary Rusk: It is unclear what the Senate will do. It will be tough going. IDA may be held up by it.

The President: Is there anything on the Pueblo?

Secretary Rusk: Not yet. MEETING NOTES CORVERS

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Secretary Rusk: Porter would like to settle the Pueblo on his own terms. I am not about to give him the authority of the President.

FUTURE OF STRATEGIC MISSILES TALKS

Secretary Rusk: Showed the President the letter.

Secretary Clifford: Buss and I suggest holding up.

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res: Anything on Rieblo. Publication Requires Permission of Copyright Holder: W. Thomas Johnson: Rusk: Not yet Torter would like to seitle Pueblo on his own frams. him Authority of President Future of strategic missiles talks Pusk. Showed President CC: Buzz + I suggest

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