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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

11-24-68

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

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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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By ing NARA, Date 5-19-89

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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.

Walt Rostow: 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.

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

Secretary Rusk: Brezhnev will 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.

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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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TUESDAY, SEPT 12

Rusk

Clifford

Wheeler

Postow

Helms

Christian

Johnson

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Pres: Fine, let's go on.

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

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

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

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

Pres: Clark, who called whom
on the call to UP

CC: He called me about his
statement on troop withdrawal.
I told him I had not predicted
any US 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.

CC: VP has had 3 flubs.

- ① withdrawal of troops
- ② minority plank vs. majority plank
- ③ Bringing Marine unit home now

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

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

Pres:

- ① I want HHH to win
 - ② I want Demo Party to win
- They are better

No question Hungry against anybody

- ③ Told Cabinet not to let record of his
dept. distorted.

I want Cabinet should do what
is appropriate to help the VP.

Where I help depends on where
H.H.H. wants me to help.

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

Pres: He wants space. In his
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he thinks it is politically
wise to keep space.

CC: Nixon's representative on DOD wants
to see me on personnel and
future programs at Dept of
Defense.

CC: I was called to appear before Senate on 7/1/68. I want to do anything I can to help Abe.

Pass: I do not think it would be wise.

Nixon wants to Appoint chief justice. Southerners want to change structure of the court

Rostow:

Procedural progress, but no substantive progress

Meet privately Mondays and Fridays.

Averill + Cy believes other side does not understand Manila Formula.

Holms: Moscow is blue with rumors
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Rusk: Probably Brezhnev will be
sacrificial lamb.

Pres: What is situation on NPT?

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

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Pres: Anything on Pueblo.

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Rusk: Not yet.

Porter would like to settle
Pueblo on his own terms.

I Am not ABOUT to give
him Authority of President.

Future of strategic missiles talks

Rusk: { Showed President
letter }.

CC: Buzz + I suggest
holding up.

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