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#33 notes	Notes from 10/15/68 - 1 p.m. Tuesday luncheon with Foreign Policy Advisors <i>open 7-10-91 NLJ 89-207</i> Possible classified information 2 pp.	10/15/68	A
#34 notes	Handwritten notes from 10/15/68 meeting " Possible classified information 5 pp.	10/15/68	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 4

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OCTOBER 15, 1968 - 1 p.m.

1, TUESDAY LUNCHEON WITH FOREIGN POLICY
ADVISORS

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
Walt Rostow

Bill Bundy
Ben Read
Harry McPherson

NOTES ON MEETING WITH FOREIGN POLICY GROUP
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1968

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
Walt Rostow
Bill Bundy
Ben Read
Harry McPherson

Ben Read: Hanoi said they could not get the NLF to Paris a day after the bombing stopped if this were done now. Hanoi said it is impossible to get the NLF representatives to town that soon. They said they are not authorized to speak for the NLF. They would not agree to seating the NLF press representatives who are in Paris because "We do not speak for the NLF."

Vance and Harriman say the announcement should state that talks should begin as soon as the NLF and the GVN get to Paris.

The President: When did they say the bombing should stop?

Ben Read: Vance and Harriman did not say. I did not ask.

Secretary Rusk: We do not know if the NLF will send a delegation.

The President: Does the NLF have to send a delegation?

Secretary Rusk: Yes.

The President: Why don't we say that we will stop the bombing 24 hours after the GVN and the NLF are at the table?

Secretary Rusk: We do not know if we really have this thing buttoned up.

The President: We will not stop the bombing if I do not know that serious talks will start with the GVN at the table.

Secretary Rusk: Why don't we get a certain date.

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Ben Read: Vance and Harriman think we should go ahead. Their exact quote was: "Don't hang up on this."

The President: No.

Secretary Rusk: We must flash the Troop Contributors and tell them that we will not move on this until a day is certain when the talks will begin with the GVN and NLF present.

The President: I think we should do that. Say to them that anytime the NLF can get there and the GVN are seated we are prepared to stop the bombing 24 hours in advance.

Secretary Rusk: That is good. We will say that the United States Government will stop the bombing 24 hours in advance of the time the GVN delegates are there, and when Hanoi can get the NLF delegates there.

Bill Bundy: I agree. It is the only way to keep the Armed Services with us.

Secretary Clifford: We must make it clear that we have no intention of stopping the bombing, until we know the date of the meeting at which the GVN will be present.

Walt Rostow: We do not care about the NLF.

Secretary Clifford: We will stop the bombing 24 hours before such a meeting.

For Cy Vance and Averell Harriman, we say that the presence of the GVN there at the first meeting is only symbolic. We just need a warm body.

Secretary Rusk: They said that too.

The President: Let's do everything possible to make sure that this thing is held tightly. I hope all of you will just close up the State Department and lock the doors.

#

MEMORANDUM

Rose
Clifford
Roscoe

Bill Bundy
Harry McPerson
Bill Bundy

Ben Reid

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MEETING NOTES
COPYRIGHTEDBen Reid

Hanon said they could not get to Paris the
WLF day after bombing stopped. It is
impossible to get NLF representation
to town ^{that soon.} Not authorized
to ~~get~~ ~~NE~~ speak for NLF.

Announcement should say talks
should begin as soon as NLF and
GUN could get to Paris.

Pres - When did they say bombing
should stop

Reid - They didn't say

Rush - we do not know if WLF
will send delegation

Pres - Does NLF have to send
delegation

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NLJ 89-207

By isp, NARA. Date 4-24-91

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Rush - Yes

Pres - why don't we say that we will stop bombing 24 hours after QUA and NLF are at table.

Rush - we do not know if we really have this thing buttoned up.

Pres - we won't stop bombing, though, if we don't know talks will start.

Rush - why don't we get certain date

Reid - Dave Harriman, think we should go ahead - "don't hang up" on this now.

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MEMORANDUM

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Pres - No

Rusk - Let's flash troop contributors
that we will not move on
this until a day is
certain on talks.

Pres = I think we should do that
Say to him anytime NLF
can get there and QUN
can be there we are
prepared to stop, 24
hours in advance.

Rusk: Say we'll stop bombing
24-hours in advance of
time QUN delegates are there, or
NLF delegates are there.

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Bundy - I agree. It's only way
to keep armed services
with us

Clifford: we have no intention
of stopping bombing
until we know the
date of the meeting at
which the GUN will
be present.

Rostow: we don't care about
NLF

CC: we will stop bombing
24 hours before such
a meeting.

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For Cy + Abe, we say
presence of gun men
at 1st meeting is only
symbolic. We need a
warm body.

Rush: They said that.

Pres: Let's try to get
thing held.

Pres. Let's lock doors
at State Dept.

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