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TUESDAY LUNCHEON
OCTOBER 22, 1968

Meeting began: 1:20 p.m.
Meeting ended: 2:24 p.m.

THOSE ATTENDING:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Wheeler
CIA Director Helms
Walt Rostow
George Christian
Tom Johnson
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NOTES ON PRESIDENT'S TUESDAY LUNCHEON
OCTOBER 22, 1968

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

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The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Wheeler
CIA Director Helms
Walt Rostow
George Christian
Tom Johnson

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Secretary Rusk: We ought to put a medal on George Christian and Bob McCloskey for the way they have handled the last few days.

The President: (Read proposed cable to Bunker and Abrams). Insert A.

I want to know what the military view is of this -- the military effects and morale.

I want to know if Abrams thinks we should stop the bombing.

How much can we tell the South Vietnamese?

Secretary Rusk: The first day -- A. Bombing. B. Meeting.

Walt Rostow: The orders will have to go out twenty-four hours before.

General Wheeler: 9:00 a.m. Saigon time Saturday.

Secretary Rusk: Yes.

General Wheeler: Should we refer to reconnaissance?

The President: Yes.

Walt Rostow: Reconnaissance will continue.

The President: When would we announce?

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 87-38
By isp NARA, Date 5-19-89

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Secretary Rusk: It would be a joint announcement between you and Thieu.
(Statement, Insert B)

9:00 p.m. Friday, 9:30 Television Statement. Thieu will go on too.

The President: When do we stop?

Secretary Rusk: Noon our time Friday.

George Christian: It will leak Friday afternoon.

Secretary Rusk: Are the fellows out of North Vietnam?

General Wheeler: They are on their way.

Secretary Clifford: The actual date of the meeting should be in the message.

Walt Rostow: Would Thieu approve announcing having the GVN Representative at the meeting -- Bunker should ask him.

The President: Nixon will ask me if this isn't like putting a fox in the chicken coop. (Laughter)

Secretary Clifford: It seems Thieu gains enormously to have the GVN at the Table.

The President: We do, in effect, recognize them by letting them sit down with us.

Secretary Rusk: It's about like letting Stokely Carmichael sit at Cabinet meeting.

Secretary Clifford: It still seems like greater benefit than detriment.

The President: Factually, that's correct.

Secretary Rusk: Emotionally, that's not correct.

Walt Rostow: The South Vietnamese are afraid of how we play them in Conference -- push them toward accepting a slippery slope -- jam into coalition government.

CIA Director Helms: In the local draft board in New York there is a sworn statement by Aristotle Onassis that he was born in 1900 -- making him 68-- not 62 as now published.

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Secretary Rusk: Arias left the Canal Zone. We now can hold up on recognition of the government. We recommend that the USA now recognize Peru, if you approve.

The President: What does that do?

Secretary Rusk: Colonels have it in Brazil and Argentina.

The President: What if we didn't recognize Peru?

Secretary Rusk: It would complicate ourselves. But we have recognized 50 countries where coup d'etats have taken place..

Secretary Rusk: We are denied AID for Peru.

CIA Director Helms: Sugar quota would fall off once the Hickenlooper Amendment takes over.

Secretary Rusk: We don't get anywhere by not recognizing them. This is the 62nd Coup I've lived through since I've been Secretary of State and Dick Helms did not cause a one of them -- contrary to popular belief.

We can't impose our will over other countries. They will conduct elections in Peru.

We went two years without a coup in Latin America.

The President: Are we agreed on the language of the announcement?

Secretary Rusk: We do not want to negotiate a joint statement.

We should reserve question of timing.

The President: Do you feel the same way?

Secretary Clifford: Yes.

Walt Rostow: The GVN has gone to work soberly. We should make a checkout with Bunker.

Secretary Rusk: This is a little like Warsaw plan. If they see they can get a week out of us they will hold out.

The President: You should see Dobrynin as soonas you can. (Secretary Rusk)

A. New Jersey:

The President: Let's leave it there until this is started.

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General Wheeler: We can do it for 6 or 7 days.

B. EBAN:

The President: I said we were very disturbed about introduction of nuclear weapons. I left it there. He talked 30 minutes straight.

C. PERU:

The President: Recognize him as soon as you want to.

D. PANAMA

The President: Okay on that, holding off for a while.

E. EXERCISE WITH SOUTH KOREANS

The President: Let's let Nixon and Vice President Humphrey do this.

General Wheeler: We need to do this. The main body won't move before November 14.

F. BLACK MISSION

The President: If there is any chance let him go.

Secretary Rusk: Let's hold off.

The President: Okay.

G. PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

The President: Let's hold off.

H. WIVES IN SAIGON:

Secretary Rusk: We need this.

General Wheeler: No military dependents in Saigon.

The President: Let's don't do it now.

I. SPANISH BASES:

Secretary Rusk: We agreed to base agreement. General Wheeler can have talks with top Spanish Military. Perhaps we can extend agreement for seven years.

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1:20 Lunch

Pies
Rusk
Clifford

Wheeler
Helms
Rostow

Christians
Johnson

Rusk: We ought to put a medal on
George Christian and Bob
McCluskey for way they
have handled the last
few days.

Pres: (Read Proposed ~~Statement~~ Cable
(insert) to Brinkley & Abrams.)

I want to know what military
view is of this — the military
effects and morale.

I want to know if Abrams
thinks we should stop
bombing.

How much can we tell SVN?

Rusk: first day — (A) Bombing
(B) Meeting

Rostow: Orders will have to
go out **24** hours before.

Wheeler: 9 a.m. Saigon time Saturday

Rusk: Yes

Wheeler: Should we refer to recall?

Pres: Yes

Rostow: Rocce will continue.

Pres: When would we announce

Rusk: Jointly between you & Thieu
(Insert statement)

9 p.m. Friday

9.30 TV Statement

Thieu will go on too.

(2)

P. When do we stop?

Rush - Noon our time Friday.

Christian - It will leak Friday afternoon.

Rush. Are fellows out of NVN.

Wheel. They are on way.

C.C. Actual date of meeting should be in message.

Rostow: Would Thieu approve announcing having GVN representative at meeting - Brecher should ask him

Pers. Nixon will ask me if this isn't like putting fox in chicken coop

C.C. It seems Thieu gains enormously to have GVN at table.

Pres.: In effect we do recognize them by letting them sit down with us.

Rush: It's about like letting Stohely Carmichael sit at Cabinet meeting.

CC: It still seems like greater benefit than detriment

Pres.: Factually, that's correct

Rush: Emotionally, that's not

Postow. (SUN) ~~THAT~~ are afraid of how we play them in conference - push them toward accepting slippery slope - jam into coalition government.

Helms In local draft board in New York
there is a sworn statement
by Aristotle Onassis that he
was ~~born~~ born in 1900 - making
him 68 - not 62 as
now published.

Rusk Aras left Canal Zone.
We now can hold up on
recognition of government.
I recommend that USG now
| we recognize Peru, if
you approve.

Pres What does that do?

Rusk: Colonels have it in
Brazil & Argentina?

Pres: What if we didn't
recognize Peru?

Rusk: It would complicate
ourselves. But we have
recognized 50 countries
where coup d'etat have
taken place.

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Rush: We are denied AID for Peru.

Helms: Sugar quota would fall off
once Hickel's amendment
takes ~~off~~ over.

Rush: We don't get anywhere by not
recognizing them.

This is 62nd coup I've lived
through. Since I've been Sec of
State + Dick Helms did not
cause a one of them —
contrary to popular belief.

We can't impose our will
over over countries.

They will conduct elections
in Peru.

We went 2 years without
a coup in L.A.

Pres: Are we agreed on language of announcement?

Rusk: We do not want to negotiate a joint statement.

We should reserve question of timing.

Pres: Do you feel same way?

CC: Yes

Dostov: GUN has gone to work soberly. We should make a check-out w/ Brunker.

Rusk: This is a little like Warsaw plan. If they see they can get a week out of us they will hold out.

Pres: You should see Dobrynn as soon as you can, DR

① New Jersey :

Pres Let's leave it there
until this is started.

Wheeler: we can do it for 6-7 days

② EBAN :

Pres: I said we were very
disturbed about introduction
of nuclear weapons. I left it
there.

He talked 30 minutes
straight.

③ Peru

Pres: Recognize him as soon as
you want to.

④ Panama

Pres: OK on that, holding
off for awhile.

⑤ Exercise with South Koreans

Pres: Let's let Nixon
H H H do this

Wheeler: We need to do
this. Main body
won't move before
Nov 14.

⑥ Black Mission

Pres: If any chance let
him go.

Rush: Let's hold off

Pres: OK

⑦ Peaceful Nuclear Explosion.

Pres: Let's hold off

⑧ Wives in Saigon

Rush: we need this

Wheeler: no military dependence in Saigon

Pres: Let's double it now.

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Spanish Bases

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Rusk

We agreed to base agreement.

Wheeler can have
talks with top Spanish
military.

Perhaps we can extend
agreement 7 years.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

Meetings with the President

Tuesday, October 22, 1968, 12 Noon and Luncheon

Agenda: 12 Noon

1. Vietnam (Sect. Rusk)
 - preliminary thoughts on next moves in Paris;
 - NEW JERSEY (Sect. Clifford).
2. Israel and Eban Meeting (Sect. Rusk)
 - negotiating position for Sect. Rusk in dealings with Eban;
 - timing of Phantom deal;
 - the President may wish to report on his 10:30 meeting with Eban.

Agenda: Luncheon

3. Peru (Tab A) (Sect. Rusk)
 - Recognition?
4. Panama (Tab B) (Sect. Rusk)
 - how to get Arias out of the Canal Zone without triggering riots in Panama City anti-American in character;
 - recognition.
5. U. S. -Korea Military Exercise (Sect. Clifford and Gen. Wheeler)
 - See Tab C.
6. Another Black Mission to Cambodia? (Sect. Rusk)
 - See Tab D.
7. Land Reform Message: The President to Bunker (Sect. Rusk)
 - See Tab E.
8. Talk with USSR on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions (Sect. Rusk)
 - See Tab F, first page.
9. Authorization for Limited Number of Wives to Saigon (Sect. Rusk)
 - See Tab G.
10. Other.

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By DUT, NARA, Date 3-4-91

W. Rostow