

45
Meeting with Foreign
Policy Group

Wednesday, October 23, 1968

Those attending the meeting
were:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
General Wheeler
Walt Rostow
Tom Johnson

~~MEETING NOTES~~
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Holder: W. Thomas JohnsonNOTES ON MEETING WITH FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS
4:00 P.M., CABINET ROOM
OCTOBER 23, 1968

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

The President
Secretary Rusk
General Wheeler
Secretary Clifford
Walt Rostow
Tom JohnsonDECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NJ 87-38
By lip NARA, Date 5-19-89

The Group read over the Text.

Secretary Clifford: You have firm military support.The President: We do not know yet what we have from Hanoi.

General Momyer said you couldn't do much because of weather. If we get what we are asking for, he'll support it.

General Wheeler: The Chiefs said that the other day.The President: I want maximum civilian and military support.

The people will ask why did I stop bombing if I had no firm agreement.

Secretary Rusk: There is a 5% chance the other side would like to put the President in the spot of stopping the bombing, then restarting.Secretary Clifford: What we did yesterday was to get principles upon which this was based.General Wheeler: This language sounds like an ultimatum. I would go back to earlier language: "The President cannot maintain bombing cessation in the face of violations."Walt Rostow: I would use "facts of life" formulation.Secretary Rusk: That's good. Soviet's know the three facts of life well.The President: We will stop bombing on October 31. They can make their announcement as they wish.

Secretary Rusk: We could argue all day about an "agreed minute."

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Secretary Clifford: Bus and I had a wonderful time with Ike this morning.

General Wheeler: He was alright on Vietnam. He was concerned about the political situation in Saigon. He said if something comes up he should know about, let him know.

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10-11-68 10:33 AM

Oct 23 47

4:00 P.M.

CABINET Room

Pres

Rusk

Wheeler

Clifford

Rostow

JOHNSON

Group read over text.

CC: you have firm military
support.

Pres. we do not know yet what
we have from Hanoi.

AWESL

General Momyer said you couldn't do much because of weather. If we get what we are asking for, he'll support it.

Wheeler: Chiefs said that the other day.

Pres: I want maximum civilian & military support.

|| People will ask why did I stop bombing if I had no firm agreement.

Rusk: There is a 5% chance other side would like to put President in spot of stopping bombing, then restarting.

SERVICE SET

CC: what we did yesterday
was to get principles
upon which this was based

Wheeler: This language sounds
like ultimatum. I would go
back to earlier language:
"Per. cannot maintain
bombing cessation in face
of violations"

Portow: I would use "facts of
life" formulation

Rush: That's good. Soviets
know 3 facts of life
well.

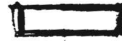
SECRET

Gres:

We will stop bombing Oct 31.

They can make their announcement
as they wish.

Rush: We could argue all
day about an "agreed minute."



Insert final text of
Message from President
to Vance & Harrison.

CC: Bus & I had a wonderful
time with Ihe this morning.

Wheeler: He was alright on
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in Saigon.

He said if something
comes up he should
know about
let him know.