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#102 notes	Notes from 11/26/68 - 1:45 p.m. Foreign Policy meeting [Sanitized NLJ-CBS 40] Secret 4 pp.	11/26/68	A
#103 notes	Handwritten notes from 11/26/68 meeting Secret 15 pp.	11/26/68	A

FILE LOCATION

Tom Johnson's Notes of Meetings, Box 4

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Meeting began: 1:45 p.m.  
Meeting ended: 2:25 p.m.

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FOREIGN POLICY MEETING NOTES ON NOVEMBER 26, 1968  
FAMILY DINING ROOM

SANITIZED

THOSE ATTENDING:

The President  
Secretary Rusk  
Secretary Clifford  
Robert Murphy (Nixon Staff)  
General Wheeler  
Walt Rostow  
CIA Director Helms  
George Christian  
Tom Johnson

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The President: I talked about the possibility of meeting with the Soviets with Senator Fulbright and Bob Murphy, liaison with Nixon.

(3)  
(5)

Robert Murphy: I don't know if we have superiority or not, based on intelligence briefings and reports I have had. We need to cut down on expenses. We have something going. The bombing was stopped. South Vietnam will come to Paris.

Secretary Rusk: An announcement will be made tonight.

Secretary Clifford: I think it would be in President-Elect Nixon's interest to get these talks started. During his term, I expect an agreement could be reached.

A number of forces are in position now to let talks begin. Then technicians can take over.

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Items to be discussed:

Missiles  
Vietnam  
Korea  
Mideast

Walt Rostow: The Soviets

[REDACTED] (3+5)

Robert Murphy: That Communique would be a great achievement.

[REDACTED] (3+5)

The President has long history of correspondence on Vietnam. We could lay out this. [REDACTED] (3)

Secretary Rusk: We were far down this track before Czechoslovakia.

Neither one of us has decisive influence on countries of the Mideast. But we both do have legitimate claims on Soviet on Southeast Asia.

Robert Murphy: I have a reservation about summit meetings. The thought of another Glassboro would be unappealing.

The President: The question of preparation is not a relevant one. We have been prepared.

Secretary Rusk: We are under pressure from non-nuclear countries to get going on these talks.

The level of talks is related to Vietnam and the Mideast. Every week that goes by without progress increases the danger.

Robert Murphy: On the balance, this should appeal to Mr. Nixon.

The President: We don't want to commit Mr. Nixon, we do want him to know of it.

Bus, any comment?

General Wheeler: No, Sir.

The President: Dick?

CIA Director Helms: No, sir.

Secretary Rusk: North Vietnamese representatives told Cy Vance there is difference between what happens north of the 19th parallel and what happens south of the 19th parallel.

General Wheeler: We could probably live with it.

CIA Director Helms: We must keep our eyes south of the 19th. Not much north of the 19th.

Secretary Clifford: We are aonly firing drones north of the 19th.

General Wheeler: If there is a known AAA site or SAM site, the idea is for armed reconnaissance.

Robert Murphy: What is the infiltration?

CIA Director Helms: 7000 month. Still good deal of traffic.

Walt Rostow: That is a good figure.

CIA Director Helms: 410,000 since '65.

General Wheeler: Walters knows lots of North Vietnamese people. He saw Le Duc To and his people. He saw a very bleak situation in North Vietnam.

Walt Rostow: They have great respect for General Abrams, U. S. Forces. They have manpower problems.

Secretary Clifford: The Soviets have been limited in what they can do while we were bombing a sister Socialist State.

Robert Murphy: It's interesting that issue was never raised of bombing during the talks there except hitting the bridges over the Yalu River.

Walt Rostow: The report says they want peace, but they won't come on their knees to Thieu.

Secretary Rusk: Let statements speak for themselves.

The President: When is Dobrynin going back?

Secretary Rusk: Tomorrow.

I'll be on Face-the-Nation next Sunday. Next steps in Paris.

There will be a donnybrook over procedural questions.

One of the first questions of substantive matter will be a more formal agreement on the DMZ, cities and reconnaissance.

They will press for a political settlement. We cannot agree to type of political settlement they can agree to.

I would lean toward mutual withdrawal of forces.

We would have to believe South Vietnam could look after the rag tag elements of the Viet Cong that would be left.

Robert Murphy: A ceasefire -- wouldn't you shoot for that first.

Secretary Rusk: We could ceasefire if troops were moving north.

The Viet Cong claim now they control 75% of the area.

Our figures show 69% of the South Vietnamese under GVN control -- 15% contested.

We need to get Laos back to independent basis and territorial accords on Cambodia.

I do not see how they could accept the terms we would find acceptable, or vice versa.

We have not had flags at the table so far. No name plates.

CIA Director Helms: On November 19, the North Vietnamese director and the Indonesian Foreign Minister said Hanoi would ask for a declaration of withdrawal of troops -- after that they would talk.

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