



~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUMMARY NOTES OF 541st NSC MEETING
August 25, 1964; 12:35 P.M.

Congo -- Cyprus -- South Vietnam

Secretary Rusk: On the Congo, the rebels who were attacking the government are fleeing from Albertsville. We must be cautious about the extent of U. S. involvement. Tshombe may get himself in a precarious position. The situation on the ground is apparently not moving very fast against the government. We are consulting with the Belgians and the Africans.

Under Secretary Ball: As to Cyprus, the efforts of Dean Acheson to get the Turks and the Greeks to agree in Geneva on a plan to solve the problem has run into difficulty. The situation is serious. The Greeks might even try to force Enosis and then negotiate with the Turks. The Greeks may have decided not to do so because they are aware that the Turks would not tolerate such a solution. The present Greek government is so weak that they cannot handle the Cypriot leader Makarios and thus get Cyprus under their control. You can't hang a custard pie on a hook.

September 16 is an important day because a Greek-Turkish treaty expires on that date. The presence of 10,000 Greeks in Istanbul is covered by this treaty. Re-negotiation would call for Greek concessions. If the treaty lapses, the 10,000 Greek in Turkey lose their rights.

Any deal by Makarios and the Cypriots with the USSR will move slowly. Makarios apparently hopes to delay any action until November when the UN General Assembly returns. He hopes to get a UN resolution granting full independence--without a treaty.

Our only policy is to live from day to day. At least the situation on the island is quiet for the moment and the UN forces there are stronger.

William Bundy: As to South Vietnam, Prime Minister Khanh has suspended the constitution and the Buddhists have made their demands on the government. The Military Council will meet tonight to elect a new President. A new National Assembly is to be called. President Khanh has told Ambassador Taylor that he expects to be re-elected. These developments are the result of some kind of a bargain between President Khanh and the Buddhists. Two major uncertainties are apparent:

- A. Will the Buddhists carry out their part of the bargain and come out against the Communists?

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- B. Does President Khanh have sufficient military support to be re-elected?
The generals may not sit still for a downgrading of the Military Council.

Some very tough decisions will have to be made soon, but none right now. After the election of the new Assembly, we will have to support whoever comes out on top. It is a messed up situation.

Secretary Rusk: We should not call off Ambassador Taylor's planned trip to Washington. We have a strong team in the field and we don't know when would be a better time for him to come.

Brouley Smith

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ATTENDANCE LIST FOR THE 541st NSC MEETING
August 25, 1964, AT 12:30 IN THE CABINET ROOM
OF THE WHITE HOUSE

The President of the United States, Presiding

CIA

Ray Cline, Deputy Director of Intelligence
William Colby, Chief of Far East Division

DEFENSE

Robert S. McNamara, Secretary
John McNaughton, Assistant Secretary (ISA)

JCS

General Curtis E. LeMay, Acting Chairman

STATE

Dean Rusk, Secretary
George W. Ball, Under Secretary
William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs
Phillip Talbot, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs

USIA

Carl T. Rowan, Director

WHITE HOUSE

McGeorge Bundy
Jack Valenti
Robert Komer
Bromley Smith