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1



ATTENDANCE LIST FOR THE 543rd NSC MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 1964, AT NOON IN THE CABINET ROOM
OF THE WHITE HOUSE

The President of the United States, Presiding

AEC

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman

CIA

Ray Cline, Deputy Director (Intelligence)

DEFENSE

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

JCS

General Curtis LeMay, Acting Chairman

OEP

Edward A. McDermott

STATE

Dean Rusk, Secretary
George W. Ball, Under Secretary
Llewellyn E. Thompson, Ambassador at Large
Marshal Green, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs

USIA

Carl T. Rowan, Director

WHITE HOUSE

McGeorge Bundy
Douglas Cater
Bromley Smith

Gen. Chester V. Clifton
Donald Hornig

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2

SUMMARY NOTES OF 543rd NSC MEETING
October 17, 1964

Communist China - Nuclear Weapon Test

CIA Director McCone briefed on:

A. The Chinese Communist nuclear weapon capability --

The recent Chinese Communist nuclear weapons test may mean that they can produce a weapon which can be carried by the IL-28 which has a 600 mile radius. We will not know until we have analyzed the debris whether the Chinese have such a device.

B. The removal of Soviet Chairman Khrushchev -- there is no one cause, but many.

Secretary Rusk: With regard to the recent British election, we have an understanding that there will be direct consultation with the new government prior to major changes in their foreign policy.

With respect to Article 19 of the UN Charter, Dobrynin will talk to me next week about the possibility of resolving this problem. It is possible that as a result of the Khrushchev shakeup, Foreign Minister Gromyko may go.

With respect to the Chinese Communist nuclear test, the short-run effect in Asia will be intense fear of fallout. A serious, long-run effect will be felt in Japan and India. Now is no time for a new policy toward Communist China. We should stand on the President's statement.

There followed a discussion between Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara. Both agreed that the President should make a statement to the American people about the Chinese Communist weapons test.

USIA Director Rowan: The Chinese Communist test will have a major effect in Africa. It may result in a push for UN membership for Communist China.

The President: We should call in the foreign affairs committees and the Armed Forces Committee. Our position should not be provocative but we should not give the impression of being unconcerned. The Cabinet should meet on Monday and the leaders on Tuesday.

We should make a study in depth of Chinese Communist nuclear weapon capabilities.

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

Brouley Smith

SECRET