

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#12 meeting minutes	President's meeting with foreign policy advisors Top Secret 12p open 10-6-83 NLS 82-51	12/1/64	A

FILE LOCATION

Notes
Meeting ~~Minutes~~ File, Box 1

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 11652 governing access to national security information.
(B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
(C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

Dtt
10/81

(McNair 3/20/64)

~~Top Secret~~

(1)

~~12~~ 12

Cabinet Room - Ex Com (SVN)

12/1/64 (1139) President Rusk RSM McC
Humphrey W. Bundy Wheeler
M. Bundy JTM
Taylor

Taylor: Pacification bogging down. VC activity in North SVN. Govt instability. DRV infiltration up. Two problems: Weak govt & VC strength. Will it collapse immediately, but losing game. Papers suggest acting to boost GVN & weaken VC. [Talked from Attachment J.]

Pres: How many groups have to talk to?

T: ① Military (Khanh & Senior Generals - Ky + 2 or 3); ② Catholics (Arch Bish + Quirin + few); ③ Buddhists (2: Tam Chao; Tri Quang); ④ Labor (Buu, but splits)

Pres: Where are Coms? In Buddhists? [T: Not using Bs]

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NLS 82-51

By ics, NARS, Date 10-6-83

SERIAL

(2)

Pres: French? [T: No monkey wrenches.]

I (continuing): ⑤ HNC. Pain in neck.

Pres: How did Diem do it? [T: Tight ship. No cement in the people. All factions enjoying taking part. Never worked together. Need army behind govt & courageous man. Huong is courageous. Better off today than 1 mos or 2 mos ago.]

Pres: Most essential is a stable govt. Looks like Huong on newspaper in mind. All 3 of moves, get well & sinks. Need to pull all groups together — put on concrete. We did in US post-assassination. Basic to anything is stability ("You know my views of Diem. Don't want another Diem.") How bring these people together — if it takes all SO & Rockefeller money. They do it or else. No point talking North if South not together. What can we do? We thought Khanh pretty good, but gone. Let's

Huong.

T: We've warned them before.

Pres: Why not say "this is it!"? Not send Johnson City by out to die if they acting as they are.

T: Maybe emphasize that our offer is for Huong govt.

Pres: Must face problem of how to keep problem from looking worse here than it is.

What resources have we? Pope?
 Cd be straighten it out with Catholics.

McC: Talked to Pope & Sec/State.

Pres: Anything to do with Buddhists? Econ? Social? [T: Minds of 3 or 4 people; CIA sees no way to work on them. Don't want to exile them. Know them.]

(4)

Pres: Can't we get the ambitious politicians into the act. [T: More than 100 on the cabinet. 14 (too big) now. Pretty good Vien (Kh's uncle) may be white hope. He is close to Hung. He shd succeed Hung.]

Pres: Let's get thinkers to work on A B C Ds to Buddhists. Now, Army?
[T: Done pretty well. Will go back, as indicated.] Have we oversold them on our necessity of being power in the Pacific. "Are they drunk on Alsop."

T: Politicians tend to think VC is US problem. If Hung goes fall:
① Another civilian govt ② US take over operational control, ③ mil. dictatorship, ④ Shrink our role (retreat).
Mil. wants increased strength.

RSM: 2-4 sq effective strength.

(5)

Pres: Easy to get in or out. Hard to be patient. Anything more we can do to VNese, making them ^{good} Rangers. Jet plane can't interdict VC. Better guerrillas?

T: This is what we're doing in SVN.
80-100G VC (Hard Core + Reg ^{34,000} + Part-time ⁶⁰⁻⁸⁰).
Armed Forces 550,000 (200,000 rego).

Pres: How 34,000 like 200,000? [T: Ratio in other areas 10:1 to 20:1 for guerrilla situations. Means 20B pastres; \$175M]

Rsm: Told Pres of \$1.191B MAP.

Wh: Excellent program (guerrilla).

Pres: But failed. If dollars, give 'em. Not want to send Ordov women to slap Jack Dempsey. DRV will bomb Saigon once. Then we are off to the races. Maybe we've given them best training, so all can do is more people. Day of reckoning coming. Want to be sure

(6)

We've done everything we can. Got to be some things still to do. What? We cd have kept Diem. [T: We need one. Maybe Huong + Vien together may be a Diem. May be progressing. But progress will be slow. Also we must get Hanoi out of the business.]

Pres: But hadn't we better shape up before we do anything. Also dependents should be out. [RSM: 4000.] [T: Can do on short notice. Do it when needed.]

Looked at summary of our efforts re strong desire re 3d Country help - more than Chaplain & nurse. If fails, we want them in with us. UK can't malaya, Germany has Berlin, Australians a "shut tail full." If as serious as believe, need new approach & get big numbers from them.

R: Will review this. UK can do more. May use Hubert.

SERVICE SET

(7)

Pres: Why not use Chinats.
Want promptly fire any leaker.

R: Combat Chinats and merge SVN problem with whole Chinese problem. Chiang wd exploit contrary to our interests.
(McC: Can do much more.)

Pres: Can we tell them they can't exploit.
Wheeler will ask to let North.

R: Chiang may be reluctant to make troops available

RSM: 1000 Phil, Aust & UK not make much diff militarily, but much politically.

R: Canadians on ICC & carrying burden elsewhere (Cyprus). Hit Wilson.
Germans.

RSM: Germans — unpopular domestically, worse to image.

⑧

I: Don't need combat troops unless go North.

✓ Pres: List from Taylor in a week of
Utopian need. Then Rusk, H³ or self go
get 'em. Anything out of India?
Tell Bowles so. Pakistan

McC 500 Thai in Laos. (RSM: Thai shd be
kept in Laos.)

Pres: ① Under present cond'ns & ② Antici-
pated conditions. Give that to who
shd make request respectfully, diplomati-
cally & get job done.

Can see forces at work, with
\$4 B a yr, & they not doing anything.
Referred to Fall.

Purpose of this mtg: ① To pull
stable govt together. Bell put in anything
he can. Rice. Fertilizer. Before Wheeler
saddles up, try everything. ② After
Taylor's report in wk or 10 days, pitch
at 3d countries. ③ Try to get better pres.
Hesitant to sock neighbors if over 104°

(9)

Want to get well first. We've never been in position in position to attack. Easy to sock. Easy to follow Morse. They'll be back in January. We want to be prepared to answer the questions. If need be, create a new Diem, so when Ted Wheeler to slap we can take slap back.

T: Doubt that Hanoi will slap back.

Pres: Didn't MacArthur say the same.

T: All measures mentioned heeded. But not enough. 2-3 mos, can keep this govt going, fumbling. Not much time to put new factor in except left from hunking enemy.

?✓ Pres: Paper generally satisfactory. Never reluctant to stand up. But must do damndest in SVN. As many allies in as possible. Plan to get dependents out. "Plans you're got now, all right."

RSM: Language changes in

McC: Don't expect first 30 days or
Transition to produce much. Refusal
important; could escalate fast.

✓ Pres: "Policy decision that there will be
reprisals but decide exactly what
at the time."

Wheeler: Gave JCS view re base knock.

Pres interrupted to ask if RSM shared
view that it's downhill in SVN no
matter what we do in country. RSM
said yes.

Pres. "I agree with that [start under our
own volition], but better if allies
with us, dependents out, down all
we can." "Want conditions as favorable
as we can get them."

RSM: Cited Westy on need for base first.

Pres. We are undertaking some of this in our plan, but want to give Taylor one last chance, McCone (Pope), Rusk (Belis). "If none of the same, then I'll be talking to you, General."

RSM: Re impetration, let's not release them now. [Pres: I shoot at sunrise if leak]

Pres: Max to provide Allied

Reedy: (1) Did Max rec strikes
(2) mil activity
(3) Decisions on ^{new} moves (see statement)
(4) Further meetings ^{w/ Taylor} (yes)

Wh/Hc statement

small mtg so not want it spread! Eyes & ears mtg.

Pres: Shd talk to Hall, [Rusk: Fel, Hick, Salt, Russell], ^{yes} Give good & bad; ch Pope made, with 3d nations; ask for suggestions. RSM & Rusk decide re House. Mahon if here. Ford maybe

(12)

Reidy: Backplan bad. Either guess or not.

Pres: Not bad.

R: Is it pre-airport.

Pres: T touch base with Hall. Come here to say goodbye & then see press here.

"Rout 2; RSM duties; T in 2; Lodge 2
Garry to do this time to time. Stick to statement & not go into ifs. No speculate. Other decisions time to time & tell when. Not to be gain from spelling ifs. Stick to announcement. More effective. Sorry built up to war

Press at 1:30

Pres left at 1:43

SERVICE SET