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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>#35 meeting notes</del>	<del>open 10-6-83 NLJ 82-51 1/20/66 meeting with foreign policy advisors on Vietnam possible classified information 3 p.</del>	<del>1/20/66</del>	<del>A</del>
<del>#36 meeting notes</del>	<del>open 10-6-83 NLJ 82-51 duplicate of #35</del>		

**FILE LOCATION**

Meeting Notes File, Box 1

DCH/10-81

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Cabinet Meeting January 20, 1966

Began 5:50

35

Present: The President, Rusk, Harriman, McNamara, Ball, Bundy,  
Valenti

PRESIDENT Assuming we are going to stay there -- and that's a safe assumption. Want in order of priority all we should do -- go after their railroad -- that POL, this trail, would take so many planes -- and here are estimated results.

If our military can <sup>supply</sup> if we do certain things we can interrupt their <sup>supplies</sup> ~~rippers~~ and hurt them -- or at the end of 8 months they will need reinforcements, etc. In other words, I want the coach to give me the season's schedule -- what the other teams will do -- and what we will do.

Bob, you need to get from Westmoreland his plan for using our resources and what results -- what happens July -- and next January. What is estimate of NVN response?

Rusk, give much thought to this -- <sup>to me - 1</sup> ~~This~~ will be subjected to immense propaganda over next weeks from peace lovers. They told us bombing cease would help us -- now they'll say "another month or so"

Don't want to be impetuous. Must be careful and cautious. Honestly believe we all talk too much. Only useful purpose is it might confuse Ho so much he'll go crazy. The newspaper articles only serve no useful purpose. Tom Wicker says he has it on ~~good~~ high authority that President will wait 10 days and then let them have it.

(What President wants Rusk to tell ~~the~~ press)

"It's been 26 days since cease bombing. Harriman has been to 11 Capitals. Goldberg and I, too, plus 113 nations. We know we've done everything we can do and should do to talk rather than fight. Adequate time to reply -- nothing encouraging -- we don't want to mislead American public."

Then stop there. Don't say any more. We have done everything that is within the bounds of selfrespect -- we will not grow weary. Then you have given a signal -- but without dramatics. Then I would hope they would break out -- show their bottom before we showed ours.

When other nations come in asking more time, tell them to go talk to the other side. It takes two to tango. I read we have a commitment that we will not bomb until H. Wilson has departed Moscow.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NLS 82-51  
By us, NARS, Date 10-6-83

SERVICE SET

We're going to have to double our manpower. At the same time, we must surface all our peace moves. We can't hold much longer than 30 days. I've told State to tell all other nations we've heard nothing.

BUNDY Since that order, U Thant and Vietienne had intruded. My own curbstome reaction is that a "no answer" ought to go on the record.

Pres. Rusk, now that you are back, you tell the press that whatever the hopes, there has been no response. We think 26 days is long enough. The aggressors don't want to talk.

RUSK Can see some advantage in starting with Baltimore -- the 5-day pause -- and go on through all the other moves --

But the whole question is the bombing pause. They want me to tell them about the pause. I have to say nothing has happened. What am I going to do? They ask. I have to say I can't say except our men will give a good <sup>account</sup> ~~account~~ out and will not run.

BUNDY Would strongly say that these 26 days have proved that we have done all we can do -- and the other nations in the world know this.

PRESIDENT These Russians are the same ones who told us there were no missiles in Cuba. They let us believe good would come from pause. But we can't endure this indefinitely. McGovern and his crowd always want you to go further than you do.

BUNDY You'll have two pieces of paper -- Ball on the case against resumption -- also an intelligence report on the pros and cons of bombing resumption. Hope you won't start bombing the day after Tet.

PRESIDENT I'm not going to start now. I just want McNamara to get the decks clear. We have to think about getting our story out quickly.

RUSK Having a press conference tomorrow.

PRESIDENT It would be good if you can do in the Senate what you are doing in the House. Get the hawks and the doves together at the same time. Perhaps get Armed Services, Appropriations, and Foreign Relations.

McNAMARA Let Rusk ask Fulbright to bring in other committees.

1/26/66

(3)

PRESIDENT Main thing is to drive the nail in. They have had sufficient time and have not responded. None of the nations we have talked to have anything to report.

RUSK But U Thant will probably say that Souvanna Phouma talked to him -- and will say we threw it out.

BALL I'll make a prediction this will get a dirty answer from Hanoi.

RUSK Even a dirty answer is better than nothing.

MOYERS Story I'd like to see on Monday is that though Rusk has spoken, the President hasn't decided.

PRESIDENT I'd like to see "the peace jig is up." We don;t have to say everything we know to newspapers. I might be turned around tomorrow, so we have to be able to talk to each other.

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