

~~25~~ 16
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1967
4:45 p.m. Wednesday

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached are the notes of your meeting with Secretary McNamara, Attorney General Clark, Under Secretary Katzenbach, Secretary Udall, and Administrator Knott today at 1:30 p.m.

@

Marvin

~~23a~~
16a

THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH:

Secretary McNamara
Attorney General Clark
Under Secretary Katzenbach
Secretary Udall
Administrator Knott

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 1967, and ended at 1:45 p.m.

The President opened the meeting with reference to the anticipated March on Washington October 21 and 22.

Secretary McNamara reported that he checked this morning with the Bureau and that the sponsors still claim they will have 200,000 people in Washington. Yet the Bureau believes 40,000 to 50,000 is a more realistic number. It is expected that the group will move against the White House, the Capitol, and the Pentagon and very likely other Government buildings.

McNamara reported he has a group inside the Defense Department to study the information it has. He concluded that troops would be able to move in and handle those things determined necessary.

The question was should there be consideration of an injunction or legislation and should there be someone with direct supervision over the activities of the various parts of the Government.

The President called on Ramsey Clark who recommended an overall command post to be either in the Defense Department or Justice Department.

Katzenbach agrees there should be a central command post and possibly preliminary steps taken to discourage attendance. In any event, steps must be taken to make certain all essential and central roads are kept open and an effort made to learn the plans of this group.

Ramsey says their information is that they have attempted to secure 1,000 busses in New York. However, the indication is that they will be only able to secure about 150 buses.

2.

McNamara pointed out that as of now no buses have been contracted for. McNamara stated that the President may wish to ask someone else to chair or have supervision over the activities of the various parts of the Government. However, he said the Defense Department would give all the information and help that it could.

Ramsey Clark said that the Justice Department has had many preliminary meetings on this but no one, as yet, is heading it up.

Udall says how this is handled is very important.

Knott agrees and says they will furnish whatever help they can but GSA only has about 300 guards.

The President asked the Attorney General if they have personnel and the resources to handle it. Ramsey said the Justice Department could supervise it.

The President asked Justice to supervise it and to make recommendations as to what needs to be done.

Ramsey Clark, Secretary McNamara, and Under Secretary Katzenbach suggested that the President may consider being away from the White House on those days.

The President asked the group to study the advisability of postponing the United Nations program with DeSalle.