

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1967

3:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR JUANITA ROBERTS

Subject: Ambassadorial Luncheon, December 14, 1967

On December 14 at 1:00 p.m., Ernest Goldstein was host at a luncheon in the Fish Room which was attended by the following:

Ambassador Karel Duda, of Czechoslovakia; Ambassador Hubert de Besche, of Sweden; Ambassador Maurice Steinmetz, of Luxembourg; Ambassador Olavi Munkki, of Finland; Ambassador Charles Lucet, of France; Ambassador Bogdan Crnobrnja, of Yugoslavia; Ambassador Jerzy Michalowski, of Poland; Ambassador Symington; Mr. Stoessel, Mr. Fried, Mr. Davis and Mr. Goldstein.

At -- p.m. President Johnson, accompanied by the Indian Ambassador, His Excellency B. K. Nehru and the Indian Minister, Dr. Purnendu Kumar Banerjee, joined the group. The Ambassadors were presented to the President and they were also introduced to Ambassador Nehru and Minister Banerjee.

The President told the group that this was the final visit by Ambassador Nehru before returning to his country, and the President exacted from Ambassador Nehru a promise to come back soon to the United States. The President asked whether Minister Banerjee would be in charge, and the President received an affirmative reply, to which he reacted by suggesting that he was sure he and the Minister would work together in harmony.

Thereupon, Ambassador Nehru and Minister Banerjee departed and the President joined the luncheon group at the table.

The President opened his remarks by saying that he never knew of any one who was elected on a platform of doing bad. It was his feeling that all human beings, or most human beings preferred

to do the right thing, and that trouble arises from misunderstanding and poor communication.

The President took note of the differences in climate, environment, language and customs that mark the peoples of the world, but he suggested that none of these differences automatically required hatred or mistrust or misunderstanding.

The President suggested that it was the duty of all of us, and particularly the Ambassadors to make sure that we do communicate, and he suggested that a further insurance against misunderstanding lies in the encouragement of people from all nations to travel, to visit other peoples in every corner of the world.

There was some discussion of the Czech and the French participation in Hemifair, and further renewal of the President's theme of the importance of avoiding misunderstanding.

The President left the group at -- o'clock.

In the ensuing discussion the Yugoslav Ambassador commented that he could kick himself for not having accepted the President's invitation to make comments or to pose questions. He said he was so completely wrapped up in the President's words that he forgot to ask the President for his views on "bridge building" between peoples, and now he hopes he will have another opportunity to see the President and raise the question in the near future.

Ernest Goldstein