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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#58	open 10-6-83 NLJ 82-51		
meeting notes	President's meeting with Rusk, Clifford, Rostow, Christian Secret 2 p.	4/8/68	A
#59			
meeting notes	handwritten notes from which #58 were transcribed	4/8/68	A
	██████████ 5p open 10-12-83		

FILE LOCATION

Meeting Notes File, Box 2

DCH 10/81

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APRIL 8, 1968 - 12:15 p.m.

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
Walt Rostow
George Christian

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Meeting began: 12:15 p. m.
Meeting ended: 1:30 p. m.

NOTES ON MEETING IN CABINET ROOM APRIL 8, 1968

THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

The President
Secretary Rusk
Secretary Clifford
Walt Rostow
George Christian

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

The President examined a proposed reply to Hanoi's message which arrived through our Ambassador at Vientiane at 4:00 a. m.

Secretary Rusk said that the South Vietnamese would have a strong preference for New Delhi as the site of the talks. He said there was something to be said for Rangoon. The President said he would prefer Rangoon or Djakarta. Mr. Rusk proposed that we suggest a range of four cities.

Secretary Clifford pointed out that the President and others have said that we would meet anywhere, anytime. The President said, "We have to assume there is drinking water there." He was referring to the need for communications and other facilities necessary for discussions.

Secretary Rusk said the North Vietnamese might choose Vientiane and this would not be a bad place for us. The President said that from their selfish standpoint he would think they would take New Delhi. Secretary Clifford said if he were the North Vietnamese he would stick Phnom Penh because it is their first choice and they are trying to test us.

The President said he had heard General Westmoreland's views for many hours, was still sorting it out in his mind how to interpret them. He said he did not accept Westmoreland's view that North Vietnam is crying for peace because of battle wounds. He said he saw some bitterness in the General, who feels he has been made the goat and has been pulled out because he didn't get support in Washington.

Secretary Clifford said that General Wheeler had reported that Westmoreland had some bitterness but none toward the President.

The President said that Westmoreland was Marshallesque and reserved, but he did tell Mrs. Johnson on the telephone that he got full support

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from the Commander-in-Chief.

The President said that Westmoreland reported that he had a good meeting with President Eisenhower.

The President and the two Secretaries discussed the method of bringing Cyrus Vance into the talks as a companion of Ambassador Harriman. The President said he wanted Vance's participation to be on a joint basis with Harriman.

The President then discussed the possibility of bringing Ambassador Bunker to Camp David tomorrow. The two Secretaries thought this would be a good idea. Neither felt the President should attend the King funeral.

The President said Bunker's big job is going to be to work on the South Vietnamese. He said they have to realize we've got to finish up by January 20. The President said Bunker is highly important in achieving this.

The President urged Secretary Clifford to solve "the gun problem." He said, "If you can't shove the M-16's, shove the M-14's as fast as you can."

Secretary Clifford said he understood the ARVN did not want the M-14 because it was too heavy, but he would get onto the situation again.

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Pres. Rust - Light - Rust - Chaudhri
4/8/68 Cabinet Room

59

examined reply to Hanoi -

R - SVN has strong preference
for New Delhi. Something to be
said for Langson -

P - I'd like Rangoon or Jakarta.

R - On balance I'd suggest a
range of four.

C - We've said meet anywhere, anytime

P - But we have to assume there's
drinking water there. Have to be able
to get communications -

R - They might choose Vientiane.
Not bad place for us.

P - From their selfish standpoint, I
think they'd take New Delhi.

C - If I were NVN, I'd attribute.
From Peak to test ~~was~~ us and because
they want it.

P - I don't accept W's view that NVN
craving for peace. I saw some
bitterness in W. Thinks he has been
made the goat. Pulled out because
he didn't get support.

C - Buzz said W had some, but none
toward Pres.

P - He was Marshall's guy, reserved -
he did tell Mrs J he got full
support from C in Chief.

- Go ahead on cable ~~forward~~.

L - I'd say Amb H ~~in consultation~~
with Vance.

P - W said he had good meeting
with Eisenhower.

~~He~~ on May

^{say:}
R - "Trying to work out time +
place. Sugg April 15. Have to
get agreement of home govt +
get people out there."

P - I want the condition H's
mind to fact that it is joint
with Vance.

P - on personal, there will be
great indignation in Negro community
when I can't go.

Trying to get more

Might get 'spirit of Camp David' -
spend day up there visiting.
Bunker come in there tomorrow.

(4)

R- suggest you don't go to funeral.
design VP, Weaver, Clark, Katerbach.
Camp David idea very good.

P- Thien has to understand in
Bugs Wheeler's language - got
to finish by Jan 20.
Got to act -
Bunker has got to work on them.
He's highly important.

[P] 2 things are ~~should to be~~
planned

Discussed military success.

Clifford

Received msg - (5)

"I'm not going to
funeral -"

Cons

- P. Solve gun problem
if can't shove M-16's,
shove M-14's as fast as can -
C. ARVN didn't want M14
because too heavy -