

July 2, 1968

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WITH
BILL THEIS OF HEARST, JULY 1, 1968

This was a fifteen minute interview requested by Mr. Theis to renew acquaintance with the President. Theis covered Mr. Johnson on the Hill for many years as a reporter for INS and UPI.

Theis commented that the President deserves "all the credit for a good day" (the NPT and announcement on Soviet talks). He asked if the President expected to get the NPT ratified at this session. The President said yes, that nothing could be more important than NPT.

Asked about the prospects on the Supreme Court nominations, the President said it looked like about 70 votes favorable and added that those in the remaining 30 are going to have to live with a bad vote. Theis said the Republicans are on poor constitutional grounds and ultimately will be hurt politically.

The President declined to discuss Senator McCarthy or other political questions.

Theis asked the President to read a letter from Bob Thompson proposing that the President might do some writing for Hearst papers after his retirement.



George Christian

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SERVICE SET

July 30, 1968

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH
VIRGINIA PREWETT, WASHINGTON
DAILY NEWS
July 15, 1968

Miss Prewett: I have been thinking about coming in to say I am on your side. How did the trip to Central America go?

The President: It was a good meeting, a good trip. I think the trip was worthwhile.

(The President gave her the attached talking points).

Miss Prewett: I thought it also added to the report on the OAS Association we have been pushing. We have been going a year, and have good things to show. It is not on a national scale yet. We hope to build protection for the OAS in case any future President wants to sweep it under the rug. But we want to reach out wider if there is anyone in your circle who might get involved.

The President: I really don't work with businessmen on Latin American except David Rockefeller. You might talk to Tom Mann or Dillard Anderson.



George Christian

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President
July 10, 1968

Talking Points for Interview with Virginia Prewett

1. Is there anything new on Cuba --
 - No, Castro continues to exercise tight control over the island through his security apparatus;
 - The economic situation continues to deteriorate slowly, now aggravated by a poor sugar crop ;
 - But the Soviets continue to put enough resources in to keep Castro afloat.
2. Is there anything new on Haiti --
 - The aborted invasion of last month was an ill-planned and ill-conceived operation launched by Haitian exiles from the Bahamas;
 - Duvalier had little trouble in squelching it and is now in the process of trying members of the invasion group which were not killed in the action or executed afterwards.
3. How does your physical integration proposal fare --
 - The Board of Governors of the Bank have given Felipe Herrera the green light to go ahead ;
 - The special meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council has authorized CIAP to collaborate at a technical level with the Bank;
 - Herrera and Sanz have been discussing how they should go about making the study;
 - I am confident that the study will be carried forward;
 - My trip to Central America has convinced me more than ever of the importance of physical integration.

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4. The Central American trip --

- You may want to use the talking points you followed in the Cabinet meeting this morning to give her a run-down of your impressions. (Copy attached).

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July 30, 1968

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S
MEETING WITH
BEN MEYER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 16, 1968

Mr. Meyer: I thought your Central America trip was very useful. Luci stole the show.

The President: (Read talking points, attached, a copy of which he gave to Mr. Meyer.)

Mr. Meyer: In Latin America there is a great interest in University teaching. Are you going to teach?

The President: Not as a full-time faculty member. I don't want to be tied to a class every morning at 8:00 a.m. I will make periodic appearances and I will meet with special groups constantly. I think you know we have one of the great Latin American collections at the University of Texas.

Mr. Meyer: What is your vision of Latin America in twenty years?

The President: I wouldn't want to try to remake Latin America in twenty years, but we have got solutions to problems if we have got the will and resources to put them in. Salvador is showing what we can do with educational television, with our support. We have got to meet basic health needs, and we have yet to find a simple, inexpensive type of housing. I have ordered that done. Latin America also has big problems of transportation and communications and population control. We have made great progress, but not fast enough.

I hope to visit Latin America again before I go out of office and after I am in private life.



George Christian

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July 16, 1968

Briefing Paper for President's Meeting

with Ben Meyer (AP)

1. My recent trip to Central America was designed in part to dramatize regional cooperation as the most important contemporary tool for building peace and progress throughout the world.
2. As I pointed out in my San Salvador statement, we have already learned these lessons about regionalism:
 - No country is so large or so rich that it cannot benefit from cooperation with its neighbors.
 - Regional progress may follow many different patterns and schedules -- there is no fixed blueprint.
 - Successful regionalism implies putting aside differences and sharing of costs.
 - Regionalism thrives when it includes a solid economic base.
 - Regional institution-building led by men of goodwill and sound judgment are vital to the process.
 - Regionalism also builds a sense of community teamwork which is man's best hope for peace.
3. A look around the world shows regionalism at work:
 - In Europe, the Common Market.
 - In Africa, an East African Economic Community and an African Development Bank.

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- In Asia, the Asian Bank, the Asian and Pacific Council, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Mekong Coordinating Committee.
- 4. In the Near East, we hope the nations will begin to work on a regional basis.
- 5. In our own hemisphere, the American Republics have been trail blazers in regional cooperation:
 - In the political field, there was the Pan American Union and its successor, the Organization of American States.
 - In the security field, there is the Rio Treaty which served as a model for regional security arrangements in other parts of the world.
 - In the development field, there is the Alliance for Progress and all the ancillary institutions: CIAP, the Inter-American Bank, LAFTA, the Central American Common Market, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.
- 6. The former British colonies of the Caribbean, having failed to follow through with political federation, are moving toward regionalism on a functional basis: The Caribbean Free Trade Association and the Caribbean Development Bank.
- 7. We have come to realize in this hemisphere that economic integration must be accompanied by physical integration -- that a common market, to function effectively, must have a network of transportation and communications that will permit rapid movement of goods, services and people.
- 8. That is why on April 23 I proposed an overall study of actual and potential physical integration projects throughout Latin America as a first step in accelerating action in this field.

9. The Central Americans have come closest to achieving what we hope will be the pattern for the rest of Latin America -- an effective common market, an increasing network of transport and communications, and a regional approach to common requirements, like higher education and research.
10. It was to support them in their experiment and to dramatize the concept of regionalism that I went to San Salvador:

(Follow talking points on the Central American Trip - copy attached.)

(wgs:min)

*for President to use
at Cabinet meeting, July 10, 1968.
July 9, 1968*

Talking Points on the Central American Trip

A. Purpose of the Trip

1. To show United States support for economic integration in Central America.
2. To dramatize the success of the Central American Common Market as an example for other areas of the hemisphere and world of what can be accomplished through regional cooperation.
3. To rally increased effort to expand the quantity and quality of education.

B. Direct Accomplishments

1. The meeting took place at a critical time when the Central Americans face important adjustment problems in the Common Market and morale was sagging.
2. My trip to review their achievements and problems with them and offer increased US support recharged their confidence and determination.
3. Before I arrived, they made a frank assessment of their accomplishments, which are impressive:

- almost 700% increase in intraregional trade;
- an average annual growth in GNP of 6%, although it has slowed down in the past 2 years;
- a 65% increase in investment;
- a 50% increase in expenditures for education;
- effective regional institutions under dynamic, young leadership.

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But, more importantly, they also measured how much more needs to be done:

- in education, housing, health and population control;
 - in diversifying and increasing exports;
 - in linking the countries with better roads and telecommunications;
 - in perfecting the Common Market institutions.
4. They agreed to redouble their efforts in these fields.
 5. They committed themselves to ratify the protocol imposing a 30% surtax on exports -- an essential first step in the readjustment process.

C. Important Follow-Up

1. The trip convinced me more than ever before that the road to peace and progress lies through regionalism and subregionalism.
2. Central America can be made a microcosm for this process which will be a challenge and stimulus for other areas to follow.
3. I am impressed by the material gains I saw and the human talent available. I saw this particularly in the educational field symbolized by the LBJ School in a poor neighborhood and in the San Andres Normal School which will house the ITV pilot project for Central America.
4. But as I drove through the streets and countryside and saw thousands of children and young people, I realized how much more needs to be done quickly in schooling, housing, health and jobs.

I am asking Walt Rostow to work with Secretary Rusk and Bill Gaud in organizing a working group to bring together resources in private industry, the universities and government to spur a major development effort in Central America.

D. A Political Side-Benefit

1. For the past 13 months relations between Honduras and El Salvador had progressively deteriorated as both sides refused to exchange prisoners seized in a border dispute area.
2. The increased bitterness between the two countries was also poisoning Common Market cooperative relations.
3. My trip prompted the two sides to work out a quick solution announced on the eve of my arrival.