

27-5  
EXECUTIVE

ND 19/C01-6  
ND 19/C0312

June 5, 1967  
Monday, 7:30 p.m.

RM3-2

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM Joe Califano

I contacted both <sup>X</sup>Heineman and <sup>X</sup>Liebman and explained the situation about <sup>X</sup>McCloskey's neutrality comment to them.

Both of them understood it loud and clear.

I might add that both volunteered to be of whatever help they could to you, both have been contacted for money for Israel and both of them told me that they were personally distressed by the failure of the Jewish Community to recognize the similarities between the Middle East and Vietnam and the inconsistency between the position of many Jews. They both hoped that at least out of the Middle East would come stronger support from the Liberal Jewish Community for your policy in Vietnam and a greater understanding of it.

Both said they would do anything they could to help you, whatever your decisions here.

Nothing else sent to  
Central Files as of 7/4/67

w.l.

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JUN 7 1967  
CENTRAL FILES

June 5, 1967  
Monday, 5:10 p.m.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM Joe Califano

McCloskey's questions and answers are as follows:

Q. Bob, for the record, these demonstrations obviously are linking the U.S. with Israel. The U.S. position in the U.N. has been stated as being neutral. Would you reaffirm that?

A. Indeed, I would: I would be more than happy to. We have tried to steer an even-handed course through this. Our position is neutral in thought, word, and deed.

\* \* \*

Q. Do you feel we can continue to maintain a neutral position, no matter what happens in the Middle East?

A. That will be our effort.

\* \* \*

The explanation Rusk, Ramsey and I agreed upon for Rusk's use this afternoon is as follows:

1. As McCloskey repeatedly stated during the briefing, we stand on the President's statement of May 23, the White House statement this morning and Ambassador Goldberg's statements in the U.N. that our policy is to support the territorial integrity and independence of all nations in the area.

2. We do not want to get into particular phrasing of an answer to a specific question, but believe that McCloskey must have had in mind that the United States is not a belligerent in a situation where nations are at war with each other and where we want to make certain that our citizens have all the protections to which they are entitled.

3. We are working very hard in the Security Council to bring about a cease fire. We stand by our commitment to the integrity and independence of the nations in the Middle East, but at the moment our paramount interest is in obtaining a cease fire.

Nothing else sent to  
Central Files as of *7/16/67*  
*W.R.*

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