

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~  
~~CONTAINS CODEWORD~~

June 19, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Evening Notes

Rice and Roads in Cambodia: Government forces reopened Route 4 today. Truck convoys may begin moving rice and other supplies along the roadway from Kompong Som to Phnom Penh tomorrow. Route 5 between Phnom Penh and Battambang Province remains closed, however. The troops that had cleared Route 5 early last week were withdrawn on June 15 and it will take some time to reassemble them for another clearing operation. With a rice crisis looming in Phnom Penh -- only 8,000 tons or a two-week supply exists in the capital -- Ambassador Swank is sending a letter to Lon Nol and the other High Political Council members urging that Route 5 be opened as quickly as possible and that Route 4 and 5 be kept open to convoys, even if it takes some casualties to do it.

Cease-fire Developments: A Soviet-built MIG-19 fighter made a reconnaissance pass over the city of Quang Tri and nearby government positions Monday in the first such reported incident in at least four years, high ranking Saigon government sources said Tuesday. In another development, the Viet Cong denied today that any of its troops fired on two ICCS helicopters Sunday and protested against the Canadian delegation's "inaccurate reporting" of the incident.

A U.S. Navy task force has gathered off Haiphong Harbor to resume clearing seven North Vietnamese ports mined a year ago, a Defense Department spokesman said today. The 18-ship task force will begin minesweeping operations at Haiphong, Cam Pha, and Hon Gai as soon as last minute arrangements with the North Vietnamese are completed.

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

1003-87/7246 Per Hr. 12/17/2014  
By RS [M] NARA, Date 4/11/2018

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U.S. Executive Kidnaped in Argentina: An American executive with the Argentine subsidiary of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company has been kidnaped, police sources said today. He was seized yesterday as he left the company plant about 15 miles south of Buenos Aires. It was unknown if the kidnapers were common criminals or members of one of the half-dozen guerrilla bands in Argentina.

The Evening Star and Washington Daily News: George Sherman summarizes the U.S.-Soviet talks yesterday. The two leaders have tentatively agreed to sign a new declaration Thursday on the next steps in nuclear arms talks. According to Soviet sources, the declaration will set forth guidelines telling negotiators in Geneva in what direction to move on a treaty limiting offensive nuclear weapons.

Special prosecutor Cox is expected to file with Judge Sirica a large part of the evidence he has collected against Dean to permit the prosecution to show that the evidence was developed independent of the testimony Dean is expected to give next week.

In an article about China, Henry Bradsher states that it has returned to the kind of economic policies that were condemned as capitalist revisionism during the Cultural Revolution. It is logical to assume that Chairman Mao is unhappy with the ideological trend under Premier Chou En-lai, but there is no evidence that the pragmatic economic policies will be changed now. The economy is too troubled for experimentation.

President Thieu today warned the world not to be lulled by Communist appeals for peace and charged that the Communist scheme was still to take over South Vietnam by force.

James Schlesinger told a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing the U.S. should produce at least a limited number of a new kind of nuclear artillery shell.

Mary McGrory discusses how the President was saved, at least temporarily, from Dean's testimony by Communism.

According to Wilbur Mills, reported reductions in the emigration of Jews from Russia have stiffened Congressional opposition to granting trade concessions to the Soviet Union. Mills said the issue made it certain that Congress would attach restrictions to any trade concessions for the Russians.

According to Orr Kelly, there is a real problem of policy makers with different responsibilities and different viewpoints who look at essentially the same information and perceive it in quite different ways. He cited the example of Clements and Fulbright and their views of the Soviet approach to arms control. The growing awareness of this problem of "nonsymmetry" may lead to progress toward a real easing of tensions.

In a humorous vein, Russell Baker fabricates an exchange between President Nixon and Soviet Party leader Brezhnev in which the latter supposedly asks how you at your age and with all your travels could possibly be a great lover -- unless there were some secret new American device for reducing love to a daily summary.

According to Crosby Noyes, the more skuldruggery that is forthrightly confessed by the planners of the Watergate outrage, the more sympathy is being generated by the culprits. The basic motive of the break-in and bugging was disquieting, for the objective evidently was to blackmail Lawrence O'Brien.

Tom Wicker writes that a year after Watergate the most burning question in the public mind still seems to be whether the President knew about the bugging and/or the coverup. The affair has produced some fortunate consequences deriving from the pursuit of truth by the Senate, the press, and -- a bit reluctantly -- the Department of Justice. For the first time since Roosevelt's first term, "the President" is being seen as human, flawed. Three cheers for that.