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NEWS CONFERENCE

#120

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:45 P.M. EST

JANUARY 8, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President came into his office this morning at 8:00 a.m. He called Boston to see how Chairman Brezhnev was. (Laughter.)

Q For the literally-minded, will you explain?

MR. NESSEN: For the literal minded, he is not coming to Boston. He is not coming to any hospital in America. He is not coming to America. I don't know how many other ways I can simply say that he is not coming, period.

Q Does that mean the summit next summer is canceled? (Laughter.)

MR. NESSEN: No, that is the immediate future. We have been trying to knock that down since 9:30 last night, but nobody would accept the word.

The Cabinet meeting started shortly after 11:00. The President opened the Cabinet meeting by welcoming Vice President Rockefeller to his first Cabinet meeting. The President said, "We are going to keep him very busy. He already has one major responsibility." This is referring to the CIA investigation. Resuming the quote, "It is an important job dealing with a problem that needs to be solved responsibly." That is the end of the quote.

The President also introduced to the Cabinet Jim Connor, who is the new Cabinet Secretary.

Don Rumsfeld was then asked to run through, for the Cabinet members, the new White House organization, which you know about. Don said this is designed to fit the President's inclination to deal directly with officials, to have multiple sources of information and to have an orderly organization.

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