

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CABINET MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 1975 - 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room, The White House

President: First, I have two comments: Yesterday I sent up an Indochina supplemental. I want it clearly understood that this Administration is clearly, firmly, unequivocally behind that. We want it, we are going to fight for it and I want everyone behind it. I think it is vital and right, and I want no misunderstanding about that.

Second, we are in a delicate situation on energy. We are going to put it all in one bill to show we have a plan. And I want no talk about compromise.

Morton: Can we get a talking paper on Vietnam? It would help in talking to the issue.

President: There is a good article in the Christian Science Monitor by Goodwin about the consequences of a collapse in Southeast Asia. If they go down the drain, there will be a strong guilt feeling in the American public.

Morton: A question that was put to me was, would \$300 million do any good?

Schlesinger: In Cambodia we are asking only what we requested before. Phnom Penh will fall this spring without this aid. In South Vietnam, the decline is slower. They are having to ration down to hand grenades.

Kissinger: We asked for \$1.4 billion in authorization. They gave us \$7 billion in appropriations. So we are asking for almost half of it again. To agonize about each \$100 million is ridiculous, since if it is not enough, it might as well be nothing. The Administration's Vietnam policy was ratified in 1972 by a 62 percent vote. Now the McGovern philosophy is being put in retroactively by those who lost in 1972.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By let, NARA, Date 11/20/00



CONFIDENTIAL

2.

The Vietnamese are below the level at which they can effectively operate. Then their casualties go up. When their casualties go up their morale goes down. Then they lose more, then our opponents say they said so.

President: At the time of the Paris Accords, many people said, "Just get the troops out and we will give aid." Now they are backing off that. We have a commitment and we are doing it because it is right. We believe in it.

Vice President: Your negotiating authority and your ability to settle the Middle East will be seriously weakened if the President is not seen to be able to deliver on his commitments.

President: We can't be aggressive in one area and isolationist in another. The Middle East is no more important than Southeast Asia. We have to have global policy and we are going to push this through.

While we are here I want to extend my thanks to Claude Brinegar, Bill Saxbe, and Roy Ash for the fine work they have done. I am deeply grateful.

[There was then a budget discussion led by Roy Ash, and some discussion of deferrals and excissions.]

CONFIDENTIAL



Cabinet Mtg 29 Jan 75 ✓

P First I had 2 comments: yesterday I sent you an Indochina sup. I want it clearly understood that the Admin is clearly fairly, unapologetically behind that. We want it, we going to fight for it and I want you all behind it. I think it vital and right - I want you to be enthusiastic about that.

2nd, we are in delicate sit on energy. We are going to put out in 1 bill to show we have a plan. And I want no talk about compromise.

K Weston ~~Can~~ Can we get a talking paper on UK? It would help in talking to C issue.

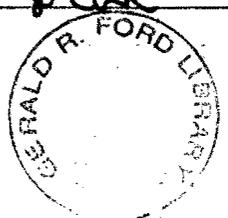
P Good article in ESA by Goodwin about consequences of collapse in SEA. If they go down & down this will be a thing quite falling in US public.

Weston Question to me issues would see out all any good schemes In Cambodia we asking only what we are requested to pay. P P will fall this spring w/o this unit. In SVK, a decline shown. They having to ration down to hand grenades. (Civilians)

K We asked 1.4, they giving us 1, so we asking almost half again. To organize about last

~~the~~ 100 mil is substantial sum if it not enough, it might as well be nothing. UN policy was being ^{interactively} satisfied in 72 by 62% vote. Now the Truman philosophy is being put in retrospectively by those who lost in 72. They believe a level at which they can operate. Then this exonerates go up, then several years down, then they lose more, then our opponents say they will see

P at time of Paris accord, many said just get a truce and we will give aid. Now they are backing off that. We have a contract & we



(What do we have to do for Feb 5)

FY77 Foreign Aid

bring it back under right + we believe in it
UP You must maintain authority + ability to settle m.f. will
be seriously weakened if a Pres is not seen to
be able to deliver on his contracts.

P We must be aggressive in our area + involved
in another ^{VE} it is no more important than S.E.A.
We have to have global policy and we are going
to push this thru.

Thanks to Annika Soth, Col.
Discussion of details & discussion.
Aph budget discussion

