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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1975

MEETING WITH DR. JOHN HANNAH

April 21, 1975

Oval Office

12:45 a.m.

(15 minutes)

From: L. William Seidman

I. PURPOSE

To review his work as Director-General of the World Food Council.

II BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The World Food Conference, held in Rome November 5-16, 1974, set in motion a series of follow up activities and organizations to implement its recommendations. Foremost among these is the World Food Council, a high level, limited membership U.N. organization charged with overall review of follow up activities in all food policy areas. The World Food Council has coordinating, consultative, and advisory powers with respect to food aid, investment, and other foreign agricultural assistance. Members of the Council are nominated by the U.N. Economic and Social Council and elected by the U.N. General Assembly. The U.S. is a member of the Council which plans to hold its first meeting in June.

To assure high level focus and appropriate coordination within the U.S. Government in implementing the resolutions passed by the World Food Conference an International Food Review Group was established under the Chairmanship of Secretary Kissinger and Vice Chairmanship of Secretary Butz.

The U.S. has taken the initiative in seeking agreement on an international grain reserves system. At the invitation of the U.S., an ad hoc group of eleven cereal trading nations met in London in February



for preliminary discussions. At the conclusion of those discussions a working group was formed to work with the staff of the International Wheat Council to study and analyze various options. The working group is scheduled to reconvene in May to review several technical studies.

B. Participants: Dr. John A. Hannah, L. William Seidman.

C. Press Plan: David Kennerley.

III. DISCUSSION POINTS

A. International Fund for Agricultural Development

Dr. Hannah will likely raise the subject of a meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development scheduled for Geneva on May 5-6. NSC informs us that Dr. Hannah will probably attempt to obtain your commitment to high level, active U.S. participation in these consultations. UN Secretary-General Waldheim has cabled Secretary Kissinger requesting such participation, pointing out that Dr. Hannah will be chairing the meetings.

The new agricultural development fund was proposed at the World Food Conference to receive voluntary contributions and resources which could be dispersed to developing countries. The fund would come into existence when the UN Secretary General, in consultation with pledging countries, determines that the fund holds promise of generating substantial additional resources for development assistance and that operations have a reasonable prospect of continuity.

The U.S. opposed at the World Food Conference, and continues to oppose, the establishment of a new agricultural development fund on the ground that while we support increased investment in agricultural production in developing countries, we believe that there are already sufficient existing multilateral channels for such assistance. A new fund would further diffuse the resources available and increase problems of coordination.

NSC suggests that we should not make any commitment regarding the agricultural development fund meetings at this time other than that we will participate in the meetings. The U.S. has a large and increasing bilateral program in agricultural development and participates in several established multilateral aid mechanisms which have proven effective. We must study any additional commitment carefully to ensure our efforts are being effectively coordinated.

The U.S. position at the World Food Conference, where the Fund was first proposed, was that we need more effective work in existing programs, not new programs, and that the Fund would be a valuable addition only if it was able to mobilize OPEC resources. It would be useful to inquire what progress has been made in committing OPEC resources.

B. Possible Areas for Inquiry

1. How is the World Food Council proceeding to ensure that its agricultural development strategy will be consistent with free international trade in food products and access to world markets by efficient producers?
2. What steps are being taken by the Council to elicit broad participation by other advanced countries in providing technical assistance and by capital exporting countries in providing financing?
3. In what areas and how can the U.S. be more helpful in addressing world food problems?



Jame

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN
FROM: WARREN RUSTAND *WR*
SUBJECT: Approved Presidential Activity

Please take the necessary steps to implement the following and confirm with Mrs. Nell Yates, ext. 2699. The appropriate briefing paper should be submitted to Dr. David Hoopes by 4:00 p.m. of the preceding day.

Meeting: Meeting with Dr. John Hannah

Date: Monday, April 21, 1975 Time: 12:45 p.m. Duration: 15 Minutes

Location: The Oval Office

Press Coverage: Meeting to be announced; Press Photo (if desired)

Purpose: To allow Dr. Hannah to report on his work
as Director-General of the World Food Council

cc: Mr. Hartmann
Mr. Marsh
Mr. Cheney
Dr. Connor
Dr. Hoopes
Mr. Jones
Mr. Nessen
Mr. O'Donnell
Mrs. Yates
General Scowcroft
✓ Mr. Cannon
Mrs. Davis

