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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


May 6, 1975

CABINET MEETING

Wednesday, May 7, 1975

6:30 p.m.

The Sequoia

From: James E. Connor 

I. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

1. Background:

You last met with the Cabinet on April 29th when the agenda was devoted entirely to the Vietnam evacuation.

2. Participants: Attached at Tab A

3. Press Plan: Press Photo Opportunity at Dock; David Kennerly Photo.

II. TALKING POINTS

1. This is my first visit to the Sequoia since I became President. I'm delighted that I can share that experience with my Cabinet.

I'm also pleased to welcome two Acting Secretaries who are with us tonight, Kent Frizzell of Interior and Steve Kurzman of HEW.

2. I know that some of you will have to leave us in midstream to keep some diplomatic commitments.
3. The rest of us I think should take advantage of the setting and the fact that we're not pressed by time to explore a number of questions in some depth.
4. Let's start with an area we are all concerned with--The Congress. Last January Jack Marsh gave us a very helpful briefing on the new Congress and how it promised to shape up. I'd like Jack to give us a review now on the basis of the last four months of experience. Jack,...

5. Most of you have now had some contact with the Congress.
I'd like to hear from each of you on what your experience has been and on how you assess the next several months. Nelson, let's start with you...

~~Jim, (Schlesinger)...~~
~~Ed, (Levi)...~~
~~Earl, (Butz)...~~
John, (Dunlop)...

Carla, (Hills)...

Bill, (Coleman)...

Bob, (Ingersoll)...

~~Steve, (Gardner)...~~

John, (Tabor)...

~~Kent Frizzell...~~ [Interior]

~~Steve Kurzman...~~ [HEW]

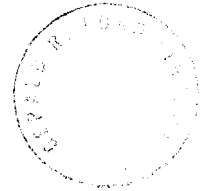
~~Fred, (Deat)...~~

~~Jim, (Lynn)...~~

~~Alan, (Greenspan)...~~

Frank, (Zarb)...

Russ, (Train)...



6. We will be confronted over the next few weeks and few months with many pieces of objectionable legislation that could easily result in a string of very difficult vetoes.

Some of these vetoes will be cased on philosophical or policy grounds, but most will be objectionable because of their damaging impact on the budget.

In many cases our veto strategy will not be to block the enactment of legislation, but to cause the Congress to make legislation more acceptable either because of threat of veto, or because it has been successfully vetoed. If we can establish a beachhead early on, using the veto to demonstrate strength, we may not have to use it as frequently in the future.

We have taken a firm stand to hold the deficit line at \$60 billion for FY '76 and both Houses of Congress have passed budget limits substantially over this figure. In all likelihood it may not be possible to sustain a veto on every one of these issues, but I do not believe that we can let these facts deter us in opposing these expensive spending programs.

Each of them will be attractive to a particular segment of the public and subject to much political posturing by their supporters in Congress.

However attractive these individual proposals may be, our best approach is to attempt to keep the focus of attention on their overall impact on our efforts to keep the budget and deficit within reason.

Therefore, it is imperative in your appearance before Congressional committees, before audiences around the country, and in your press statements to emphasize that we recognize individual needs in each of these areas and are willing to accommodate them within sensible limits, however to spend way beyond our means in all of these areas will result in the strong possibility that the economic damage to all Americans will be extreme.

The great advantage we have is that the Administration can speak with one view, whereas the Congress is badly divided and fragmented both along party lines and on issues.

The departments are not independent but are interrelated, and frequently other Cabinet heads and members of the Subcabinet can offer great assistance to other departments in the legislative process. This assistance should be both sought and given in order to have a cooperative, concerted action on the Hill.

Department heads should communicate frequently, not just with the White House, but also with other Departments to exchange information and develop concerted efforts.

The base of any vote for legislation, or to sustain any veto, is with the Republicans in the House and the Senate.

You and your chief officers should be in constant communication with the Republican leadership, and this should not wait until you have a piece of legislation on the floor.

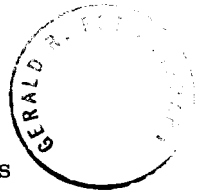
The first third of this session has nearly passed. Prior to the Memorial Day recess every Cabinet officer and Subcabinet Officer should see that a personal contact has been made with the Members of your jurisdictional Committees, Republicans and Democrats. This should be a courtesy call to see where things stand and ascertain what is on the Member's mind. If every department of government would do this, it would assure that each Member of the House and Senate has had a personal call by a Senior Official of the Administration.

It is vital that you increase the tempo of Congressional visitation both on the Hill and by invitation to your Department. In these

meetings the program of your Department should be stressed, and the key issues of the Administration should be explained. Point out why we must hold the line on federal spending.

Finally, you may encounter arguments that the way to hold down spending is to cut the Defense Budget. This argument must be resisted by all Cabinet Officials. This critical period in which we live, and especially when other nations look to American determination, makes it essential that we maintain our strength in order to maintain our credibility.

Let us work for the best possible version of these bills, but let us all work together to keep the cost within the goals that we have set for ourselves.



7. I'd like Jim Schlesinger and Max Friedersdorf to bring us up to date on the status of the evacuees and the Congressional reaction.
Jim, ...
Max, ...

8. We have a moral obligation to help these refugees resettle and begin new lives in the United States. They fled from South Vietnam for two reasons: They feared that they would be killed if they stayed and they did not want to live under a Communist system of government.

By helping these refugees, many of whom fled their native land with nothing but the clothes on their backs and a few small parcels, we are living up to our heritage as a charitable and compassionate people. I have spoken out strongly on this issue because I believe strongly that we must do the right thing morally. We are a nation of immigrants, and I believe the inscription on the Statue of Liberty, which enunciates our finest qualities as a people should be our guidepost in this tragic situation.

The maximum number of refugees expected is 150,000 at the most, and it probably will be less. Sixty percent of that number are children, the innocent victims of this war who deserve a chance to live their life in freedom and will certainly not be taking anyone's job away. Only 35,000 refugees are heads of households who will be looking for jobs; but many of these have skills which will enable them to find employment. The number of job seekers is a tiny fraction of 1% of the labor force in the U.S. Even without the

Vietnamese refugees, the U. S. has been opening its doors to 400,000 immigrants a year without any impact on the job market. Since the end of World War II, almost 1,400,000 refugees from Europe, Asia, Hungary and Cuba have fled oppression and sought freedom in the United States. They have made a rich contribution to our culture and our economy, and we expect the Vietnamese will do the same.

Many of the Vietnamese refugees coming here have close relatives or sponsors in the United States, so they will be no burden to the government. Ambassador Brown's office at the State Department is using a computer to match up the refugees' job skills with the available jobs. The resettlement program is being carried out in such a way that the refugees will be spread throughout the country without a heavy concentration in any one area.

We are working with other countries to resettle perhaps as many as 20,000 of the refugees outside the United States. Canada is welcoming some. Some French-speaking countries in Africa have indicated that they will take some.

I want to emphasize one point. It is my intention that none of the aid money I am requesting from Congress will be spent by the United States Government to help the Communists of North and South Vietnam. I believe it is the responsibility of the nations which sent weapons of war to the Communists to come forward now to repair the damage.

Let me emphasize once more my deep moral commitment to help these refugees resettle and begin new lives in the United States. Despite the opposition of a few, I believe the majority of the American people want to live up to the finest traditions of our history and welcome these new immigrants as we have welcomed so many immigrants to our bountiful land in the past. We will be a better country and a better people for doing it.

I hope in your speeches and public appearances you will support my position on the refugee situation.

9. The Congress has moved closer to a decision on the Consumer Advocacy Agency. Jim Cannon will brief us on the situation. Jim,...

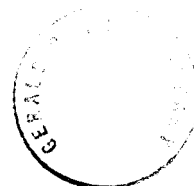
I am disappointed that we have not had a greater response from the Departments with reference to the Consumer Agency legislation. I am very strongly against it, and I think each of you if you would spend the time to look at the bill, would be equally against it.

I want to make very sure that in the days and weeks ahead you do take the time to understand how this bill can upset the operations of your departments and convey this feeling to the appropriate Congressional members.

11. In my speech to the Yale Law School last week, I set forth the basic theme of a Crime Message. In preparing the message I want you to follow the lead of that speech and flesh it out, but I do not want it to be narrow or technical. The message on this subject is of so much direct concern to the daily lives of the people that it must be clear and understandable to the public as well as to the Congress and the legal fraternity.

The chief theme is concern for the victim, for insuring domestic tranquility--we have a responsibility to try to provide safety in the streets and in our homes. The emphasis should be on protection of the victims--the poor, the disadvantaged minorities, the old, the very young--those who are least able to provide for their own safety. The kind of crime that should be our chief target is the kind that is on the minds of most people--muggings, robberies, murders, assaults, rapes, breakins, hold-ups--the kind of crime that is having the most disruptive effects politically and socially. The central recommendation should be swift and sure punishment upon conviction for a serious crime.

When I say emphasis I do not mean that other matters should be excluded or that they are not important. Rehabilitation programs should not be abandoned, but there are grounds for doubting that they work. We must re-think rehabilitation efforts, study the research already done, and try to understand the consequences. I do not want the message to suggest that we are relying on rehabilitation programs for reducing violent crime.



The experience of the last 15 years should make us reluctant to boast that we, or anyone, know how to eliminate crime. We have spent billions, and crime has gone up. The tone of this message should be modest in any claims that are made. But we should be very firm on one point: mandatory sentencing for serious crimes committed by persons with prior criminal records. A small percentage of repeaters accounts for a large proportion of violent crime. The present version of the Senate Bill permits almost total flexibility in penalties; it allows a judge to give no sentence to a convicted robber, for example, or to sentence him. A convicted robber should definitely go to prison, but 15 years may be too long a sentence, except for unusual circumstances.

The crime message must look into the question of upgrading prisons and making them more manageable.

Of course, the kind of crime I am speaking of is more a concern of state and local jurisdictions than of the federal government, but I want the Administration to assume fully, and without excuses, our share of the responsibility. Organized crime is a federal responsibility and must be discussed, but I want the emphasis on street crime, and not on so-called "suite crime."

There is a tendency to link the economic situation and crime--for instance, to argue that unemployment causes crime, and that the way to reduce crime is to eliminate unemployment. I have doubts about that line of reasoning. It may be true that crime goes up when unemployment goes up, but crime has also gone up when unemployment has gone down. In this message I do not want to see the argument that we can deal with crime only by eliminating so called root causes. It is important to deal with unemployment for its own sake. The connection with the crime problem confuses both issues.

12. Frank Zarb will give us an update on the energy legislation. Frank,...
13. Russ Train suggested that a trip on the Potomac might be a good place to discuss the water quality program. Russ,...





Revised 12:45 p.m.
May 7, 1975

Attendees for Cabinet Meeting, Wednesday, May 7, 1975, 6:30 p.m. on
board the Sequoia

The President

The Vice President

The Secretary of Defense, James R. Schlesinger

The Attorney General, Edward H. Levi

The Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz

The Secretary of Labor, John T. Dunlop

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Carla A. Hills

The Secretary of Transportation, William T. Coleman

The Deputy Secretary of State, Robert S. Ingersoll (for Secretary Kissinger
who has another commitment)

The Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Stephen S. Gardner (for Secretary
Simon who has a commitment on the Hill)

The Under Secretary of Commerce, John K. Tabor (for Secretary Morton,
who is out of the country)

The Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, D. Kent Frizzell
(Mr. Frizzell is Acting Secretary of the Interior in the absence of
A Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Interior)

The Assistant Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare, Stephen Kurzman
(Mr. Kurzman is Acting Secretary of HEW while Secretary Weinberger
is out of the country and there is no incumbent Deputy Secretary of HEW)

The Counsel to the President, Philip W. Buchen

The Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Frederick B. Dent

The Counsellor to the President, Robert T. Hartmann

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, James T. Lynn

The Counsellor to the President, John O. Marsh, Jr.

The Assistant to the President, Donald H. Rumsfeld

The U. S. Representative to the United Nations, John A. Scali

William Baroody, Assistant to the President (Public Liaison)

James Cannon, Assistant to the President (Executive Director, Domestic Council)

Richard Cheney, Deputy Assistant to the President

James Connor, Secretary to the Cabinet

Max Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President (Legislative Affairs)

Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers

Ronald Nessen, Press Secretary to the President

Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President (National Security)

L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President (Executive Director, EPB)

Rodney Hills, Counsel to the President

William Greener, Deputy Press Secretary to the President

Mary Louise Smith, Chairman, Republican National Committee

Russell Train, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Frank Zarb, Administrator, Federal Energy Agency

[Also attending will be the Personal Physician to the President, Dr. William
Lukash; Susan Ford; David H. Kennerly; and Terry O'Donnell]

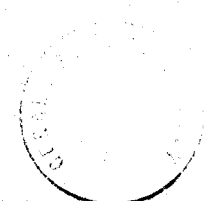
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To: The President

From: L. William Seidman *fwS*

I just received the attached statement by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on the Vietnamese Refugees which George Meany felt would be useful for you to be aware of prior to your press conference this evening.

AR4



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

GEORGE MEANY

PRESIDENT

LANE KIRKLAND

SECRETARY-TREASURER

JOSEPH D. KEENAN
PAUL HALL
PAUL JENNINGS
A. F. GROSSIRON
PETER BOMMARITO
FREDERICK O'NEAL
JERRY WURF
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RICHARD F. WALSH
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MATTHEW GUINAN
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FLOYD E. SMITH
S. FRANK RATTERY
GEORGE HARDY
WILLIAM SIDELL
ALBERT SHANKER
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LEE W. MINTON
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AL H. CHESSER
MURRAY H. FINLEY
SOL STETIN
CLENN E. WATTS



815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

(202) 637-5000

May 6, 1975

Dear Bill:

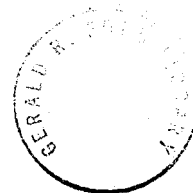
Enclosing copy of a statement on Vietnam Refugees which was adopted by our Executive Council this morning.

Inasmuch as the President is holding a press conference this evening, I thought he would be interested in having this information.

Sincerely,

President

Mr. William Seidman,
Assistant to the President
for Economic Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.



Statement by the AFL-CIO Executive Council

on

Vietnamese Refugees

Washington, D.C.

May 6, 1975

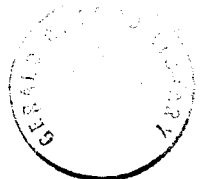
The United States has an inescapable moral responsibility to do all that it can to aid the Vietnamese refugees who are now entering our country, just as we have opened our doors to Hungarians and Cuban refugees from Communist totalitarianism. We cannot turn our backs on those who have fought for freedom without making a mockery of the principles upon which our nation was founded and by which it has served for centuries as a haven for people of all nationalities who seek liberty.

We recognize that the Vietnamese arriving on our shores will face many difficult and unique problems. But we have faith that those problems can be overcome by the good will and generosity for which the American people are justly known throughout the world. Recent statements by some politicians suggesting that the Vietnamese refugees are not welcome here bespeak a meanness of spirit unworthy of the American people. It is a meanness in which the American labor movement will not partake.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council calls upon our members to make these refugees of Communist aggression welcome in their communities.

We call upon the Congress to appropriate without delay sufficient funds to facilitate the resettlement of the Vietnamese refugees in the United States without placing an undue burden upon the already hard-pressed resources of our state and local governments.

Finally, we call upon the AFL-CIO Community Services Department, the Human Resources Development Institute, and our International Affairs Department to cooperate fully with government and voluntary programs to assist the refugees to find jobs and housing, to obtain needed social services, and to become integrated into the American way of life.



5/3/75

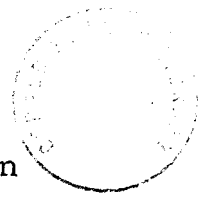
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def*

STATEMENT ON INDO-CHINA REFUGEES

The American Jewish Committee views with profound concern the human tragedy that has unfolded in Indo-China, where the horrors of war, and social and political upheaval have once again claimed the innocent as victim. As an organization with a long-standing commitment to the principle of fundamental human rights for all people and to humanitarian relief wherever it is needed, we urge the United Nations to call upon the present governmental authorities in Indo-China to respect the right of every person to leave and to seek asylum and resettlement in the country of their choice. This basic human right is clearly enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees to everyone "the right to leave any country, including their own," and in other international agreements.

We further urge the United Nations to call upon these governments to protect the peoples within their jurisdiction from reprisals and to admit a United Nations committee of impartial observers into the area.

We commend the United States Government for receiving those refugees of Indo-China who have sought admission as immigrants.
We hope that our government will continue to follow its traditional policy of granting such rights under the appropriate



provisions of our existing immigration statutes. And we also call upon other governments to open their doors to the new refugees.

We welcome the recently announced United States program to facilitate absorption of the new immigrants in a fair and compassionate manner and call upon our government to assist the agencies currently engaged in relief and humanitarian efforts in Indo-China.

We are confident that Americans will respond generously to those agencies' appeals for assistance. And we join with men and women of good will everywhere in the fervent desire for an end to the war and suffering in Indo-China and with it, true peace and reconciliation in the area.

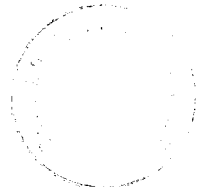
Original by
For consideration at
69th Annual Meeting
American Jewish Committee
Waldorf Astoria
New York City
May 3, 1975



CABINET MEETING

Wednesday, May 7, 1975

6:30 P. M.



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

dy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Cabinet Meeting on board the Sequoia, May 7

Note:

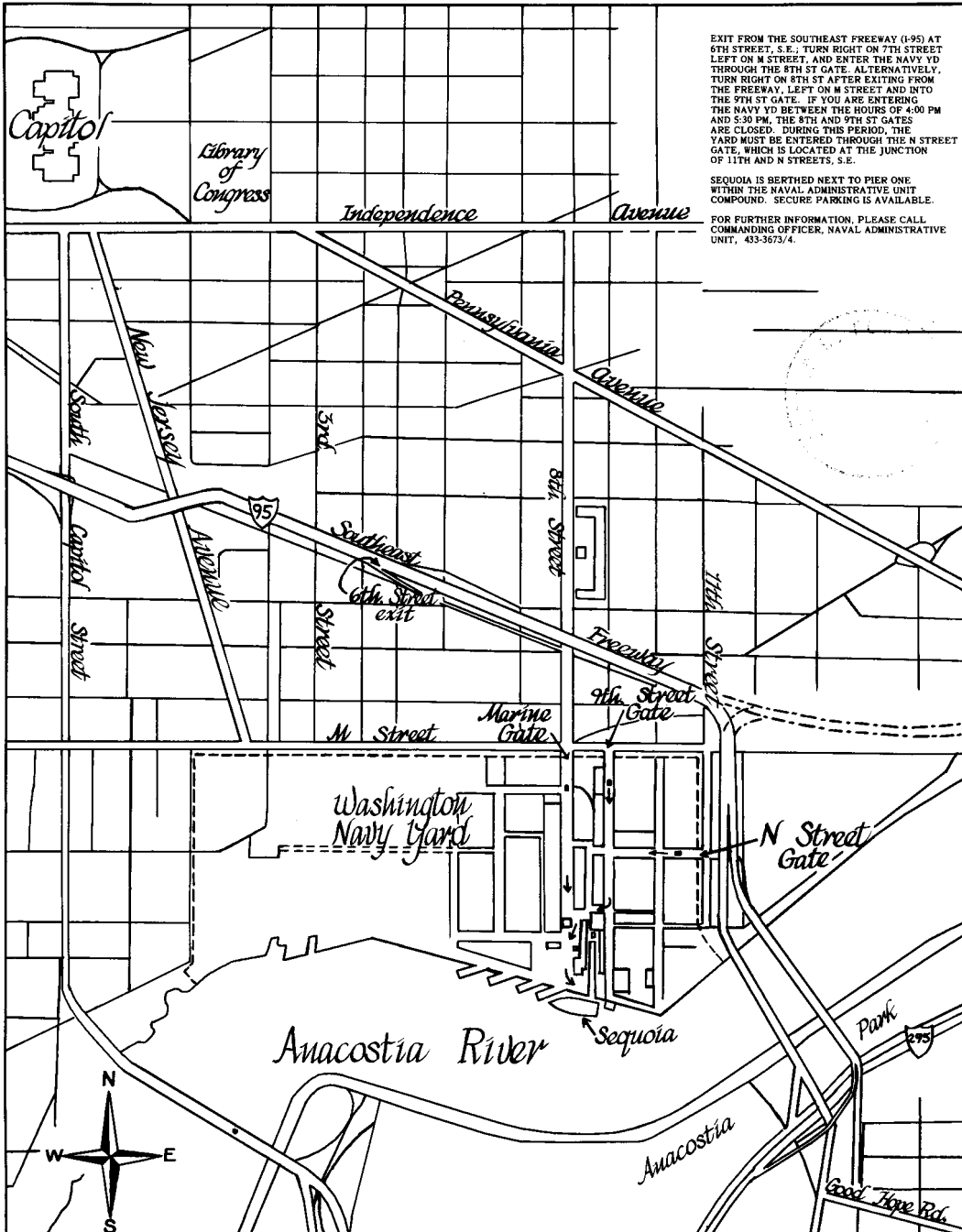
The President is expected to arrive about 6:20 p.m. - it is requested that guests arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 p.m. so that they will be on board prior to the President's arrival. Parking is available inside the secure compound area for limousines and other vehicles. Water transportation will be available for any late arrivals and for anyone desiring to depart early.

Cocktails and a buffet dinner will be served prior to the discussion of the agenda items.

James E. Connor
Secretary to the Cabinet

attachment: map





EXIT FROM THE SOUTHEAST FREEWAY (I-95) AT 6TH STREET, S.E.; TURN RIGHT ON 7TH STREET LEFT ON M STREET, AND ENTER THE NAVY YD THROUGH THE 8TH ST GATE. ALTERNATIVELY, TURN RIGHT ON 8TH ST AFTER EXITING FROM THE FREEWAY, LEFT ON M STREET AND INTO THE 9TH ST GATE. IF YOU ARE ENTERING THE NAVY YD BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4:00 PM AND 5:30 PM, THE 8TH AND 9TH ST GATES ARE CLOSED. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE YARD MUST BE ENTERED THROUGH THE N STREET GATE, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF 11TH AND N STREETS, S.E.

SEQUOIA IS BERTHED NEXT TO PIER ONE WITHIN THE NAVAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT COMPOUND. SECURE PARKING IS AVAILABLE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT, 433-3673/4.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1975

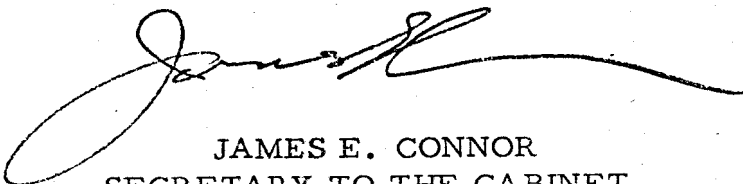
MEMORANDUM FOR

THE CABINET

SUBJECT: Agenda for Meeting Wednesday, May 7, 1975
6:30 P.M. on board the Sequoia

The President has approved the following agenda for the Cabinet Meeting on May 7th.

Introduction	<u>The President</u>
Discussion of Congressional Relations (1 hour)	<u>The President, Mr. Marsh and Members of the Cabinet</u>
Vietnamese Refugees (10 minutes)	<u>Secretary Schlesinger on the present status of evacuees, Mr. Friedersdorf on Congressional attitudes, and</u> <u>The President</u>
Consumer Advocacy Agency (10 minutes)	<u>Mr. Cannon</u>
Crime Message (10 minutes)	<u>The President</u>
Status of the Energy Program (10 minutes)	<u>Mr. Zarb</u>
Water Quality Programs (10 minutes)	<u>Mr. Train</u>



JAMES E. CONNOR
SECRETARY TO THE CABINET