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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Don Rumsfeld

Both of these stories
plus the one in The Star
last night on alleged Salt I.
violations are disturbing and
potentially very harmful.

I believe such "talk"
must be stopped.

Miami Herald 7/4/75

Ford Putting Off Showdown On a Panama Canal Treaty

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

No Progress Is Expected Before 1976

Hot Political Issue
Confronts President

By PHIL GAILEY
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The White House no longer is pushing for a prompt agreement on a new Panama Canal treaty and is hoping the negotiations, which present delicate political problems for President Ford, will drag out until the 1976 election.

Although State Department officials have been saying they expected a new treaty by the end of the year, a White House official said Thursday, "I would be very surprised if there was anything for the Congress to look at before the election."

One U.S. official said the White House comments, which came in response to questions from Knight Newspapers, are "a clear signal that political realities have overtaken the negotiations."

PRESIDENT FORD wants to avoid a showdown with conservatives over the controversial issue during an election year. At the same time, he feels an obligation to back his secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, who has committed the United States to a revised treaty that gradually would relinquish jurisdiction over the canal and the 10-mile-wide zone.

White House officials insist the President wants to make sure any new treaty protects "basic American rights" and U.S. "national security" interests. They said Ford shares some of the concerns of treaty opponents.

"The President is fully aware of the political implications (of a new treaty)," said a White House source. "The President is not going to approve any treaty that's going to be interpreted as a sell-out or giveaway. His whole intention is to hang tough in these negotiations."

ONE STATE DEPARTMENT official commented, "I can't think of any treaty other than the present one that wouldn't be interpreted as a sell-out by the conservatives."

Ambassador-at-Large Ellsworth Bunker, the chief U.S. negotiator in the treaty negotiations, is in Washington awaiting instructions from President Ford on the next phase of the talks, which involve some of the most controversial aspects of a new treaty.

Bunker plans to return to Panama later this month to resume talks focusing on the duration of a new

7/3/75

FORD AVOIDED VISIT BY SOLZHENITSYN

Is Reported to Have Felt
That a Meeting Would Not
Conform With Detente

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 2 — A White House official said today that President Ford had refused to meet with Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn on advice from the National Security Council.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, who has been critical of the Soviet system in his writings, was deported from his homeland last year, and Mr. Ford was persuaded, according to the White House source, that a meeting with the exiled writer would be inconsistent with the policy of détente.

For several days, the White House has been avoiding saying that Mr. Ford does not want to see the author. The President reportedly did not want to embarrass Mr. Solzhenitsyn or offend his admirers.

The President turned down an invitation from the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations to hear Mr. Solzhenitsyn speak at a dinner in his honor on Monday.

Two Senators Interceded

Mr. Ford also rejected a request from two conservative Republican Senators, Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, to meet with the exiled writer, who is visiting the United States.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, has treated the President's refusal to see Mr. Solzhenitsyn as inconsequential. But Mr. Ford discussed the matter with his aides for 20 minutes today.

Several of the aides reportedly said that Mr. Ford ought to see the author to placate Americans who admired him. But Mr. Ford, himself disposed against a meeting, allowed himself to be persuaded against seeing Mr. Solzhenitsyn.

Aside from the détente issue, the aides were said to have raised questions about Mr. Solzhenitsyn's mental stability. They also reportedly suggested that Mr. Solzhenitsyn was in the United States partly to promote the sale of his books and that the President should not be party to such commercial promotions.

Pelé Promotion Recalled

The White House source that provided this information asked not to be identified and declined to reveal which of the President's advisers had raised these questions.

President Ford has occasionally welcomed people engaged in commercial promotion campaigns. For example, he has been photographed with a cotton queen and, just last week, he met with Pelé, the Brazilian soccer star who recently signed a multi-million dollar contract to play and promote soccer in the United States.

At a news briefing today, Mr. Nessen said, "For image reasons the President does like to have some substance in his meetings," and added, "It is not clear what he would gain by a meeting with Solzhenitsyn."

Yesterday Mr. Nessen said the President could not fit Mr. Solzhenitsyn into his schedule. Mr. Ford did not go to the A.F.L.-C.I.O. dinner, Mr. Nessen said, because he wanted to have a family meal with his daughter Susan, who had just come back to town. Miss Ford is scheduled to be in Washington until next week.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1975

Don Rumsfeld -

The attached was
received in the President's
outbox.

Jim Connor

*This note not
send per Jim Connor's
instructions.*

from imposed by the government because "in his day, they felt gov- jeopardy for a good cause," said Though the stroke has left him blind. back then than some people had.

Ford Avoiding Showdown on New Canal Pact

FROM PAGE 1

treaty and land and water rights which the United States feels it needs for its role in the operation and defense of the canal.

Thirty-seven senators, three more than enough to prevent ratification of any treaty, already are on record opposing any change in the present relationship.

And last week, the House of Representatives voted, 264-146, to refuse funds to negotiate the surrender or relinquishment of U.S. rights in the Panama Canal.

THE WHITE HOUSE was annoyed by the House action because it interferes with its freedom to conduct negotiations as it sees fit.

But a White House official said Thursday that President Ford is "sensitive to their (the opponents) feelings" and "shares many of these feelings."

The official said, "We are not going ahead and surrender. You should not imply that this President is going down the trail of surrendering any American rights or national security considerations. He is very sensitive to this. Nobody is going to surrender basic American rights."

It is not clear if the President and treaty opponents agree on exactly

what are "basic American rights" and "security" interests.

White House officials insist the President's position is compatible with the statement of principles signed in Panama in early 1974 by Secretary Kissinger:

THOSE PRINCIPLES, which have guided the treaty negotiations, include a new treaty with a fixed termination date and an end to U.S. jurisdiction over the Panama Canal Zone. They also would give Panama a greater share of the canal's economic benefits and a role in its operation and defense.

Conservatives in and out of Congress have denounced these principles as a "giveaway." They have criticized Kissinger for his efforts to deal with what generally is considered by U.S. officials to be the thorniest issue in U.S.-Latin American relations.

Asked if the President still is committed to the statement of principles signed by Kissinger, the White House put out a statement saying, "The President has expressed his confidence in the possibility of a successful outcome to our effort to update our relationship with Panama over the canal.

HE BELIEVES a new relationship can accommodate the important interests of both our countries and of

nations of the world which depend on the canal."

Administration officials deny that the President has made a calculated political decision to drag out the negotiations to keep the issue out of his reelection campaign next year.

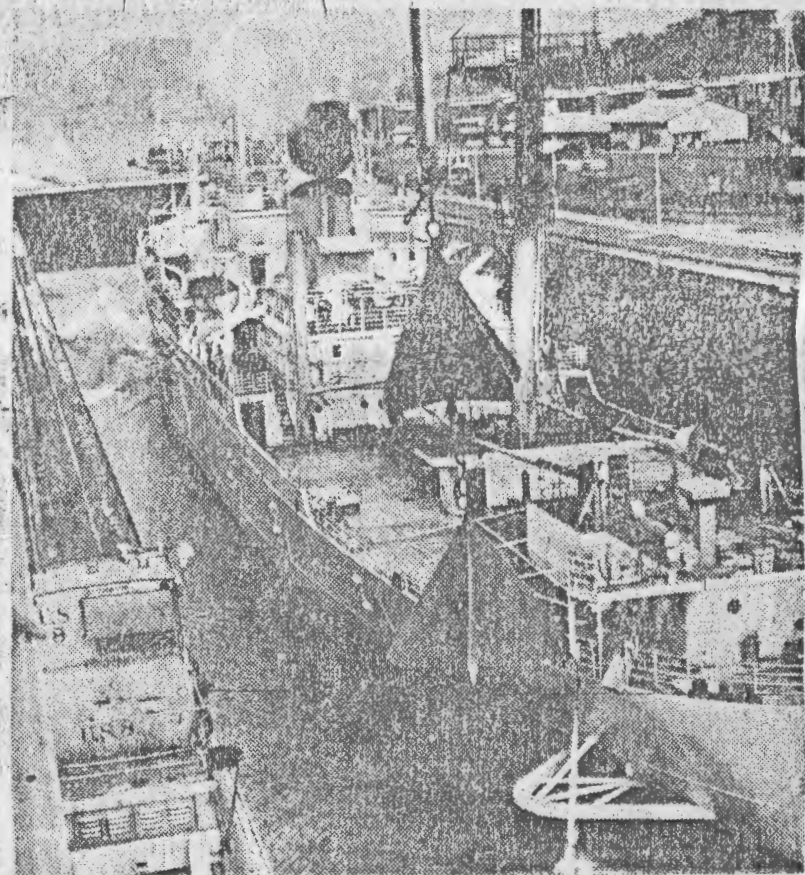
"There are some major questions which remain to be agreed upon involving difficult decisions," a White House official said. "Timing of any submission to Congress will depend upon an agreement with Panama and we do not know when this may be possible."

He added that the complexity of the remaining treaty questions makes it unlikely an agreement will be reached before the election.

HOWEVER, SOME State Department officials say there have been indications recently the administration does not plan to push for a new treaty before the election.

Whenever the treaty is discussed among administration officials now, he said, it always is in political terms.

"There was always a feeling that if we could get a new treaty by July (of 1975) we could keep it out of election year politics," said one administration official. "Failing that, I'm not surprised with its being pushed back until after the election."



Ship Passes Through Lock of Panama Canal . . . saving as much as 20 days in sailing time

Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom of the page, including names like "Willing" and "Hum-".