

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with the Cabinet

DATE & TIME: Wednesday - July 16, 1975
11:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

[There is discussion of Hathaway being in the hospital.]

President: The Indochina refugee program is being transferred from State to HEW. I will stop at Camp Chafee in August. Please be helpful with your people on loan so we can get the job done. If we don't get it handled expeditiously it will be a festering problem.

[There was discussion of the regulatory agency meeting which took place last week.]

[Jim Cannon and Rod Hills gave a briefing.]

Marsh: The response to Congressional correspondence is too slow. We need a seven-day turnaround time, starting with when the response request leaves Friedersdorf.

[There was discussion of this subject.]

President: I would like Jim to say something about the controversy over Berbera. I claimed in a press conference last fall that the Soviet Union had a base there. They denied it; we showed our photos, and the Somalis asked some Congressmen to visit.

Schlesinger: The Soviets have had a tracking station there for some time. Recently our photo reconnaissance showed clear evidence of major construction, including the largest airfield on the Indian Ocean and a missile storage and handling facility. We took some releaseable photos. The upshot was that a group of reporters and eight Congressmen went there. [He described the visits] The upshot has been that American



TOP SECRET//COMINT (S)
CLASSIFIED BY [Signature] A. KESSINGER

Determined to be Administrative Marking
Date 2/26/98 By MBH

credibility is upheld and those who opposed Diego Garcia on the faith of Soviet statements are in disarray. Diego Garcia should therefore pass. It also indicates the success of verification by National Technical Means. Heretofore, many have argued that we could not rely on it without having on-site inspection.

President: We do have a reliable technical surveillance capability. The Congressmen have verified the reliability of that technical means through this trip. The important point is our verification capability has been enhanced.

The last item is the status of our energy program. [He described decontrol program being sent up today.]

Zarb: [Described decontrol of oil and natural gas.]

Butz: As the oldest Cabinet member, Mr. President, I want to say we are very pleased at the announcement of your candidacy. I hope all of us will tilt a little -- within proportion -- in our department programs to help the President's program. [He tells a joke about the tillie-millie tilt.]

K. Woodward here for FBI break-in.
Carrying
Belmont Hotel - mail care envelope

Joy Parker

1/11/61 153

Cabinet Mtg ✓

P (Hathaway in hospital)

Inbrahim refugee & you being transported from State
to HEW. Don't stop at Chaffee in Any. Please be
helpful w/ your people on how we can get
job done. If we don't get it handled effectively it
will be nothing but a

(Regulatory agency with fast collapse). Common/Hicks
Helping

March - Response to Cong. case is the story. We need a
1 day turnaround time, starting w/ when a response report
leaves Firedome.

(Discussion)

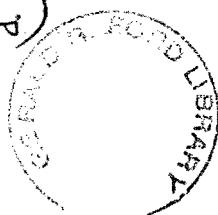
P I would like Jim to say something about the
controversy over Berkura. I claimed last fall they
had a base there. They denied it; we showed photos, and
Sonnais asked Congressmen to visit.

Chairman Sch. Sons had had tracking station there for some time.
Recently we can photo was shown clear to confirm
I major construction, and largest oil on Indian
Ocean + a missile storage + handling facility.
We took some reliable photos. Upshot was reporters
& 8 Congressmen went there (decidedly mixed).
Upshot has been that US credibility is upheld &
those who opposed Diego Garcia on faith of Sec
statements are in disarray. Dalgas should pass.
It also vindicates our inspection by N.T.M.
Heretofore, many have argued we could not rely
on it w/o also having our own inspection.

P We do have a reliable tech surveillance
capability. The Congressmen have stressed
mobility of that tech means thru this trip.
The important point is our surv. capability has
been enhanced.

Last item is status of our energy proj. (Desert
decontrol proj being sent up today).

Fact (Described depletion of oil & natl gas)



Betz As oldest Comsat member, I want to say we
are very pleased at announcement of your candidacy.
I hope all of us will tilt a little - w/in perspective -
in our diplomatic progs to help a Pres prog. (Joke about
Tiltie - Willis Tilt)

Mr. President -
I would not ask

