

NLJ-076R-6-16-1-5

RELEASE IN FULL

THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1968

SECRETREVIEW AUTHORITY: Paul Hilburn, Senior  
Reviewer

MEMORANDUM FOR: S - The Secretary *RB*

FROM: S/CPR - Angier Biddle Duke

RE: Meeting of April 25, 1968  
between the President and  
His Majesty Olav V, King of Norway

The President opened the conversation by expressing his warm welcome and a sense of gratification that His Majesty's visit had not been cancelled. His Majesty floundered a bit in his attempts to explain why the idea of such a cancellation ever arose, and the President made it clear that at no time had he ever contemplated or desired such a cancellation.

From there the conversation drifted to the war-time stay of His Majesty in Washington, and the changes that had occurred since his last visit during President Truman's Administration. This gave the President the opportunity to point out that when he first arrived here as the Secretary to his Congressman from Texas, the gross national product of the United States was fifty-five billion dollars, while this year it had exceeded the eight hundred billion dollar mark. He pointed out that when he first arrived here, legislation established the minimum wage at twenty-five cents per hour, while under his Administration as President, it was established at one dollar and sixty cents.

The President expressed his appreciation of Norway's understanding of the U.S.A.'s position in world affairs, and pointed out that Norway being a small country would be in a position to sympathize with the USA's stand against aggression. He expressed, as well, appreciation for Norway's support of NATO.

His Majesty said that the subject of Viet-Nam was a sensitive one in Europe, but that his country was more sympathetic than most. At this point the President

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reviewed the USA's position regarding the search for sites to begin negotiations with the North Viet-Nameese, pointing out that if the talks were to be secret and private they could, of course, be held almost anywhere, but that if they were to be public, or semi-public, then our allies would have to participate, and the choice of a site would be governed by their ability to have free access to it.

The President mentioned, as an example of current difficulties, that of Poland which is now engaged in a well-publicized campaign of Anti-Semitism. He cited, as an example, the case of the newly-assigned New York Times Correspondent, whom he did not mention by name, as being unable to get a Visa. Obviously, the right of our Press to enter the country where the talks take place must be maintained.

The conversation terminated with a discussion of the rest of His Majesty's trip, and the President commended him to his friend and fellow citizen, Ambassador Clark, who is Commissioner of the Federal Pavilion at Hemisfair.

Angier Biddle Duke  
Chief of Protocol

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