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May 1, 1963

THE SECRETARY'S STAFF MEETING, 9:15 a.m. (Wednesday)

Mr. Ball presided.

1. INR

Mr. Denney reported that the Italian election returns showed the CD party lost four percent of its seats and the Communists picked up 2.6 percent with the Socialists holding their own. CBS reports a move by Togliatti to form a popular front government with the Socialists.

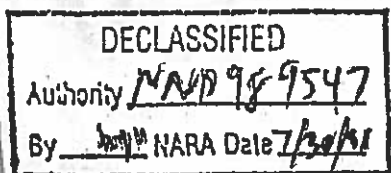
U-2 photographs have confirmed the existence of an atomic reactor in North China capable of producing sufficient radioactive material for a few nuclear weapons annually. This confirms existing intelligence estimates that the Chinese would be capable of detonating a small nuclear explosion by the end of 1963.

Laos - Mr. Denney stated that Souvanna's report of his April 30 meeting with Souphanouvong claimed there had been an agreement in principle on the creation of a mixed Neutralist-PL commission to ease tensions. Souphanouvong is reported to be interested in partition.

2. FE

Mr. Hilsman reported that the INR report of Souphanouvong's objective in partition fitted into the "pattern" which now is evident. He stated the Soviets spoke to the neutrals in the UN and elsewhere to sound out their views on partition. Mr. Hilsman thought the US should be negative on partition and cling to the Geneva Accords as the best solution. Governor Harriman said that in his view partition was equal to surrender and would result in the squeezing out of Kong Le forces. WAH will state this view at his background press conference this afternoon. Mr. Hilsman added that Article 6 of the Geneva

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

Accords permits supplying of military equipment to the RLG upon request, but the fact that we have been sending such supplies should be played down as maintenance in press contacts.

3. EUR

Mr. Davis stated that Fanfani had been hurt by the Italian election and that the Italian position on MLF must now be viewed as doubtful. He said that Ambassador Reinhardt had predicted a Communist gain, contrary to Chalmers Roberts' column in the Washington Post this morning.

Mr. Davis stated he had seen the Yugoslav Ambassador yesterday, who advised him Tito had not been in the West since 1957. He stated that the Yugoslavs thought the Secretary's visit to Belgrade would be "most useful". Mr. Davis will see the Acting Secretary at 3:00 p.m. before leaving for Belgrade this afternoon.

4. NEA

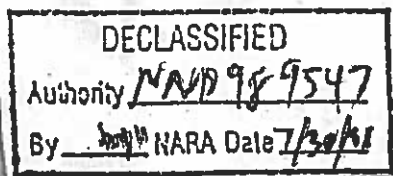
Mr. Grant stated that more than half the members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee at hearings yesterday indicated considerable hostility to India when the subject of Kashmir talks was raised. He stated that Jordan was quiet at the moment and public statements should play down the trouble there. Mountbatten will see Nehru today and Duncan Sandys might meet Nehru tomorrow in a major British effort to get Indian cooperation on Kashmir. The Secretary concurred in this approach but he asked Sandys to avoid involving the US in his representations to Nehru.

It will be two weeks before UN observers can actually be on the scene to police the Yemen disengagement which is beginning at present.

5. ARA

Mr. Martin stated that the COAS group was on the scene in Haiti investigating Dominican charges and an "uneasy quiet" prevails although there continue to be complaints of Duvalier's brutality. There are only rumors of Haitian contacts with

SECRET



SECRET

- 3 -

Bloc countries. Mr. Martin spoke with the Mexican Ambassador yesterday about the five-nation Latin proposal for a nuclear free zone in Latin America and Mr. Martin urged that inspection of transit material be raised when the five-nation proposal was discussed with other Latin countries. The initiative for the proposal was primarily Mexican, but the Brazilians are strongly behind it also. Mr. Ball asked whether we should not push the proposal but Mr. Martin stated that DOD had objections to it. Mr. Ball indicated that the advantages probably outweigh the dangers and stated he would get together with Alex Johnson, Ed Martin and Governor Harriman later in the day to discuss the US position on the proposal.

6. AF

Mr. Fredericks reported that with the breakdown of UN talks on long-range plans for Congolese Army training, the US was moving towards bilateral arrangements. A US working group will go to Brussels May 9 to discuss the problem with the Belgians and it was desirable that the meeting be given no public notice.

7. IO

Mr. Cleveland said that the Soviets are pushing for a Security Council meeting on the proposal to create a peace-keeping machinery to police the Yemen and the US has agreed to such a meeting. There was a danger of delay but subsequently financial problems made UN formal approval desirable.

The President has approved the IO strategy paper for the UN financing question to be taken up at the May 14 Special Session of the UN and has advised Congressional leaders on April 30. There will be informal contacts with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee members this afternoon to acquaint them with the US position. Mr. Cleveland said that the Special Session might also take up Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and perhaps nuclear testing.

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- 4 -

Hill hearings on trust territories have led to a jurisdictional dispute between five committees. The Administration asked for approval of a bill that would treat occupants of trust territories substantially like residents of Samoa and Guam, except for immigration rights. Mr. Hilsman stated that US neglect of 78,000 people in the territories is a "potentially explosive scandal".

BAK
Benjamin H. Read
Deputy Executive Secretary

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