

Pre-press notes, August 6, 1958



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Before the group assembled, Jim Hagerty and C. D. Jackson had gone over with the President matters concerning Mid East, UN, Khrushchev's latest note, etc.

Dr. Milton's trip to Latin America. His three points were bank loans, not grants, stable relationship, clearer understanding in those countries of American policies. The President referred to a story related to him by Dr. Milton illustrating the remarkable communications in Panama to Moscow, and our own lack of communications. A statement by some students -- pro-Communist -- was picked up in Moscow and immediately put on radio channels that are beamed back to Panama.

Summit meeting. The President said we go back to "old refrain" of properly prepared agenda, etc., though he will try to put it in a more positive approach. The meeting now going on between scientists, and the contemplated meeting for surprise attacks was mentioned. In connection with the discussions of banning or cessation of tests, the President said that if the group now in Geneva did achieve agreement, the difficulty would be in our own country where scientists and advisers are in complete disagreement as to course that should be pursued. He said that he and the Secretary of State have long ago come to conclusion what should be done (and I think, but am not sure, that their decision is for cessation of testing).

C.D. Jackson pointed out that the climax of Mr. K's last letter was in final three paragraphs where he suggests again summit meeting -- he urged the President not to dismiss the question with anything that was "old hat." The President agreed he would say that with proper preparation, we are not opposed to a summit meeting. He said his faith that anything would come out of such a meeting was close to zero. But if the Soviets want to go through adequate steps of preparation so that the discussions might have possibility of being fruitful, he is not opposed.

General Goodpaster suggested that the President might say he had been guided by a few principles all along, even before business in Iraq came up: (a) that peace and security must be put on a stable basis, small nations must be reassured that they will not be menaced by indirect aggression -- this was motivation of action we took; second principle is that the UN is the proper forum to consider these questions because small nations there are given equality; third - suggested that the President

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might strike a note in the broadest terms for development in the area. The President said he had to be careful, only this morning in a cable from Dulles, the Secretary had reported that South America felt that it had a priority on funds for development. He said you had to say that our real program is to develop confidence of nations to stand on their own feet economically and to bring about a rise in living standards. We have no objection to nationalism per se. We welcome achievement of constructive forms of nationalism.

If questions of what plans we have for Mid East, Herter suggests we say we have proposals and they are being worked on right now.

President's health -- British papers have been saying he could not engage in "rough and tumble " with Khrushchev.



Nuclear blasts -- President was reminded. Also reminded of announcement by State Department of cancellation of clean bomb tests (scientists would be able to get information from laboratory).

Economy . The President plans to take a minute off to show how inflation robs the small income fellow -- it robs the laborer whose whole reward is his pension.

Steel prices -- letter to Kefauver. The Senator has been calling for a conference to discuss this matter; the President is constitutionally opposed to a conference. He reminded audience that Truman called such a conference on that subject which was a free for all, and ended in Truman seizing the steel mills. We are working constantly on the problem; hopeful of getting objective study (such as Arden House would make). The President conceded a conference might dramatize the whole thing, but that was all he could see as a benefit. We welcome any specific constructive suggestions.

Integration -- the President was reminded that Congressman Broyhill has been pushing for meeting between Governor of Virginia and the President on Virginia's fall problem. The President said that he gets very angry about the refusal of the North to see how deeply the people of the South feel on the subject. James Roosevelt wrote the President (apparently some time ago) asking if he had any program for averting or acting if clashes occurred this fall. The President reminded the group that it was his responsibility not to keep order anywhere, but only to see that the orders of a Federal judge are carried out. In Arlington County there is a Federal court order to integrate; the State law says that if integrated