

Pre-press conference briefing
August 7, 1957



INTERNATIONAL

Disarmament proposal. Secretary hopes the President will give a good strong plug for proposals he advanced in London. If we can't get disarmament, we can't allay fear of war.

Ambassadors.

Gluck. Both this story and the one about Earl E. T. Smith are political and newspaper stories. Many political appointees have given great service to their country in Ambassadorships. Incidentally, we have never had a Secretary of State who was not a political appointment. The President said he would like, but would not, say that Mr. Gluck's story had gotten a lot of publicity that he never intended. Feels that he has been picked to bare bones, suggest that we wait and see what kind of Ambassador he makes.

Smith. President will not criticize action.

Queen's visit. Blair House is just undergoing repairs, major ones contemplated for October. Also, the Queen and Prince are old friends and their staying at White House will give opportunity for informal talks. Difficulty was about retinue. Queen has accepted to stay at White House.

The Iman of Oman. Message has been received by State, but has not come to President's attention. Actually we do not maintain diplomatic relations with Oman and Muskat. One communication came to President Wilson from the Iman of Oman, which President Wilson did not answer.

Bulganin. President will not comment if question comes if he thinks Bulganin is being downgraded.

Khrushchev. Meeting with Tito. Secretary said yesterday it was not surprising that an effort was being made to woo Tito. So far no indication that Tito had not maintained independence of his position.

Youth Festival. We did grant visas but not endorsement of project.

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World Conference of Churches. Have issued statement calling for end of atomic tests. Refer back to disarmament proposals.

Mutual Security. President will give strong plea for restoration of cuts.

Neil McElroy. Actually, the announcement cannot be made today but the President will say it is an endless and intricate process before you can submit a name for such a position. If any appointment is made, press will be notified same day. We do not have Mr. Wilson's resignation in hand, though he has indicated desire to retire before the end of the year.

Russians stopped Armed Convoy going into West Germany. After protest convoy proceeded.

Navy. One of planes off Jacksonville, June 19th, had to jettison an atomic bomb. Did not have any fissionable material. Navy trying to find.

Story about disclosure of atomic bomb plants. Strong lead as to their location was given by an officer testifying before Armed Services Committee (asking for more money for all night canteens, etc.) President was aghast that the story had leaked.



DOMESTIC

Civil Rights. President will stick by August 2 statement. Labor lobbied because they wanted jury trial for certain aspects of Taft Hartley Act. Question of whether the President will sign if it comes to him. He said it would be a most difficult problem because it does represent some step, at least in minds of people, forward. On the other hand, if he signs, it is thought that it will mean that no other legislation can be enacted for at least a decade or two. Bill Knowland is reporting on an amendment -- not yet known. President will say he will wait to see what kind of bill comes out. Bill Rogers has sent long memorandum to Knowland on jury trial, and President may refer to it.

Hoover Recommendations on accrual accounting. President has approved.

Gas Bill. President has expressed himself on it.

Pay bills. Refer to letter to Congressman Murray.

Strauss statement. President approves.