

Official White House Transcript  
of  
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIC CONFERENCE #189  
(Filmed, Taped, and Shorthand Reported)

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Held in Room 474, Executive Office Building  
 Wednesday, August 17, 1960  
 At 10:30 o'clock a.m., EDT

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 This Copy For:-



*The President*

NOTE: - THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THIS CONFERENCE  
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C. Spencer Davis, Associated Press. Mr. President, would you say, sir, how the situation in Laos looks to you now, and if you contemplate any need to pull out American aid and military missions in that country?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Laos is a very confused situation. Of course, the new Prime Minister is getting ready to present his newly-established government to the Assembly, and that is about the only development since last week. And I can say only this: that both in Laos and here in Washington we are following the situation just as earnestly as we can, and certainly to take any kind of action that seems to be indicated.

C. John Horner, Washington Star. Mr. President, now that the American Foreign Ministers are in session, what do you think that they should do, or what would you like to see them do, about Cuba?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that they are brought together there to study everything that is of interest, and particularly that seems to disturb the public opinion in all the Americas, from here on southward. Both by the report made to the foreign -- to the Council yesterday, both Trujillo the Dominican problem and the Cuban problem are cited as two of the items which they must study, and decide among themselves what to do. And further than that, I would not want to comment, because I am quite clear in my mind that these matters are for all the states of the CAS. It is not merely because we have had some specific problems and difficulties in these areas. This does not make it our problem alone. If we can't solve it on a cooperative and general basis, then indeed it would look quite bad.

C. Mr. President, Lillian Levy, Science Service. There have been reports, sir, that there is some feeling among our allies that an agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests cannot be achieved between East and West before the end of your Administration. What is your appraisal of the possibility of an agreement between now and January?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, the history of the whole thing doesn't seem too good, for the simple reason that we have been working so hard on this thing up to now.

And I would say this: Nothing could gratify me more than to achieve, between the East and West, some agreement that would bring a bit more of peace of mind to all our people, and would do so by making certain that that agreement would be policed on both sides; that is, inspected and kept everybody up to snuff.

C. van der Linden, Nashville Banner. Sir, the polls are now beginning to show that Vice President Nixon is pulling ahead of Mr. Kennedy in the Presidential race, and his Press Secretary says he now has closed the gap, and

