

PRE-PRESS CONFERENCE NOTES,  
October 1, 1958

Seawolf -- atomic submarine has been submerged for 54 days, previous record was 31 days 5-1/2 hours. President will announce. The President was in a jocular mood and said that would be all right with him -- if he had some good bridge playing companions.

INTERNATIONAL

Quemoy - Matsu. Reference to Dulles Press Conference of yesterday. Statement out of China saying Chiang said in effect he could not agree with US position. In the first place Chiang does not believe he could get a cease-fire; second place, his government should not reduce troops on Quemoy.

The President said in a lot of details -- some important details -- we had not always agreed with our friends, including Chiang. Hagerty said that the press people would try to develop a difference of opinion between the President and Dulles, and the President will call to their attention Mr. Dulles' statements of yesterday.

Some of the leading Democrats, Adlai Stevenson, Mrs. Roosevelt, etc., have been saying this was a Chinese Civil War. Harry Truman, on the other hand, sees it for the Communist-inspired struggle that it is. The President was told that U. S. News and World Report says there is Communist activities in 72 countries of the world.

The President will refer to the Secretary's statement and added that he would say that he agreed with the Secretary -- if any additional questions, he would refer them to the Secretary. He also said he wanted to commend the speech by Paul Henri Spaak in the UN.

In talking about our stand against appeasement, the President said "who knows if Britain and France had forced Hitler to retreat in 1936"?

Of course we have differences with our allies, but we are members of the free world and we intend to remain free.

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Cyprus -- the President hopes this won't come up. Has had long talks with Secretary.

More about Quemoy. Would be helpful if the President would say that he had always thought there was undue concentration of forces on that island. The President said we get ourselves in a bit of a box because we might be asked why we did not tell Chiang what to do. The question arises also is Chiang dictating our foreign policy or are we?

About Truman the President will say that President Truman has borne heavy responsibilities in this field -- his conclusions are based on experience rather than academic.

There is feeling public is developing irritation with continual international pressures. The answer the President said was that it is better to talk than fight. Then he began to run down the list of trouble spots since the first one in Iran. Andy reminded him of a phrase "protracted conflict" that is part of Communist plan.

The President said: are we people of sufficient character and courage and confidence in the right to do our duty. We are people of character and courage.

Andy suggested that in a moment of such gravity, there was to be gained taking the advice of others of experience -- meaning that there was no one in the world with more experience than the President in such situations. The President, though, cannot say that himself.

The President said in passing that what we needed were a few "friendly" questions from Friendly newspapers.

Cablegram to DeGaulle - President was reminded.

Menzies - letter on lead and zinc. Letters also sent to Canada, Mexico and Peru.

Hammerschjold's statement on withdrawal of troops from Lebanon and British withdrawal from Iraq.

Going back to lead and zinc, Canada sabotaged conference on matter, which President still thinks was a good idea.



Russia has shot off two atomic explosions. The President said they were doing just what they said they would do.

Nixon statement about someone in State Department sabotaging effort be reporting on mail on Quemoy. President will refer to Dulles statement.

Campaign plans - California is announced. There is no complacency or anything like that. Stress economic record - pushing ahead in new fields of science - keeping the peace. To the President's mind record gives Republicans right to be very satisfied if not boastful. Mentioned getting government out of business.

Maine. If it comes up President will say we did take a beating, but if every registered Republican had voted there would have been different story -- ought to be a lesson to all states.

Reference to the President's two letters on right-to-work law. President reiterated that any state that wants to decide on this can decide for itself, that he has rejected all efforts to change 14(B) of Taft Hartley.



Intimation is that Saturday a satellite will be launched by the Russians from China. Story was given out by State to minimize effect.

Vanguard - President brought up to date on most recent failure.

NASA - FIRST DAY OF OPERATION. Work is going forward on first Executive Order transferring functions to new agency. General Doolittle and Mr. Burden are seeing on their own initiative whether Attorney General sees any conflict of interest with their jobs and work on Agency.

Defense Program. President was reminded of several orders that have been issued. Program is under consideration at all times.

The President in talking about use of scientists in missiles and satellites said he sometimes felt we were using too much of our scientific talent in this area -- that more of it ought to be directed to medicine, etc.