

April 25, 1956.

Pre-press conference briefing.



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Secretary General of the U.N. Has been misunderstanding in press. He does not report to the U.S.; he reports to the Security Council and Lodge to the State Department. We also hear through our Ambassadors in the Middle East.

1950 Tripartite agreement. Also misinterpretation about it. Some idea that statement put out in Augusta overlooked that agreement. That Agreement states that anything that would have to be done would be in accordance with UN Charter. The President said, "We had agreed among ourselves that we would use feasible and practical methods to prevent hostilities."

Cease fire agreement. Question of effectiveness. We hope it stays that way.

Cold War. Don't want to go into whether winning cold war or not. President read statement of 12 points prepared by Jim, and approved by State of what has been accomplished in three years.

Bulganin-Khrushchev. May get question as to whether we have request for invitation to visit America. Answer is No. President said "We warned those people (Britain) as to what would happen."

Guided missiles . President is well aware of situation.

Speech to Editors. Question may come about Advisory Committee, to which President referred in extemporaneous remarks. Jim said it was a "foreign economic aid" advisory committee as opposed to study of State Department as a whole. President shrugged his shoulders -- agreed that it was to be in the field of foreign aid both for military and economic purposes.

Stassen Report. We are just keeping in touch.

H-Bomb tests. Russians have had six tests since August of last year, not all necessarily H-bomb tests. Their point is that they do it over their own territory and that we do it in Pacific and endanger lives. President said when asked he would say that we were not going ahead with these tests just to make bigger and better bangs; our tests are for research purposes; research is impossible without tests. He pointed out that without the H-bomb the guided missile amounts to nothing -- if they stop tests they would have to stop work on the missiles.

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It was pointed out that if we do not maintain research and continue our development, we might get into a situation where some of the free countries could find themselves vulnerable to intimidation because of reports of the Russian tests.

Possibility of using the UN to provide greater economic aid to under-developed countries. Cabot says not to play it down - say it is something we have been thinking about.

Dulles speech of Monday -- urged expansion of NATO politically and economically. President said we should not discuss the ideas because they will be proposed in the NATO Council. President said that NATO was a great organization of partners and they have means and mechanisms which could study lots of problems.

Farm Bill. Situation not changed. Republicans agreed to Soil Bank. Democrat position is that they have given us money, but no authorization. President will take occasion to point out again that he has been urging relief for farmers since beginning of year. If asked why Administrative tools were not used before, he will say he wanted a good farm bill. He will not say that he personally called Joe Campbell to urge speed in decision as to whether funds appropriated could be used. Funds apparently can be used for one year only, not for advance payments, and in very limited amount. Hauge explained situation re corn support price.

Lyndon Johnson speech. Never comment on other people's opinion.

Tax surplus, balancing budget, possible tax cuts. President will repeat concensus of opinion reached at Readers' meeting yesterday.

President said he was very worried about Studebaker-Packard. Afraid we will get a bad political jolt.

May get question on rediscount rate. President fully aware.

Highway bill - making progress.

As he was being cautioned against saying too much, the President say, "You don't make hay by always being afraid of things because they are hot."

Bricker Amendment - position is perfectly clear.

Gas Bill - position is perfectly clear.