

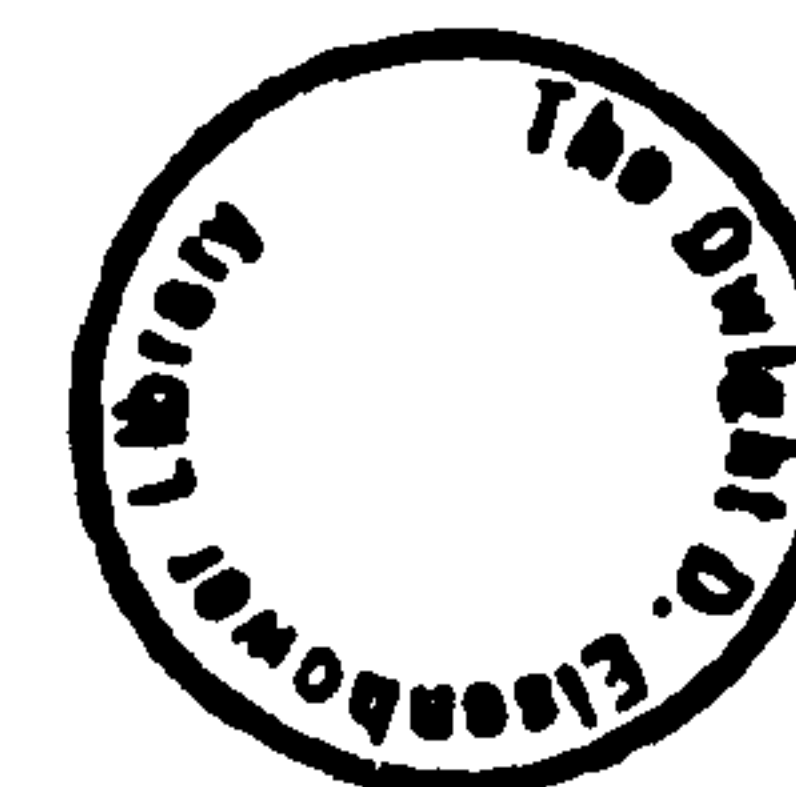
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

December 14, 1954

MEMORANDUM OF TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT



1. I spoke of the suggestion made by Lodge that the Department of Defense and the Military be asked to refrain from activities in relation to Communist-held U.S. prisoners without first clearing with the State Department. The President said he would send a memorandum on this to Wilson.

2. I reported to the President Aldrich's talk with Eden and then submitted a suggestion to the President as to how he might reply to the portion of Churchill's letter which related to a possible top-level meeting with the Russians. The President looked this over and was in accord with the general approach. He kept my draft for his own use.

3. I discussed the policy involved in the NATO MC 48 paper. I said that I doubted the wisdom of having a political fracas about this at the time when vitally important decisions were pending in France and Germany. I said I thought the important thing was not to get tied down by political machinery which might not work. I felt that, if in fact the military planning proceeded in accordance with this paper, events would take care of the political decisions, particularly if the United States was not bound to others and had its own freedom of action that would do the necessary because it would be our troops that would have the atomic weapons which they would be able to use in their own defense and that would be decisive.

The President agreed that this was a good approach and suggested I discuss it as promptly as possible with Gruenther.

4. I showed the President a proposed statement by him with reference to retention of U.S. forces in Europe, etc., if the London-Paris Accords were adopted. This was parallel to the statement he had made on EDC. The President read this and said that, while he agreed in substance, he doubted very much the wisdom of making this statement in advance of French and German action. It would look as though we were in effect trying to bribe them to take action which was in their own interest.

John Foster Dulles Papers; White House Memoranda Series;
Box 1; Meetings with the President 1954 (1)

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5. I then went on to discuss the Saar situation and I showed the President cable 1713 from Bonn. The President indicated his great concern that this Saar situation was breaking open again. He felt we could not desert the Germans on this issue. We could get along without France but not without Germany. He suggested, however, that he would be willing to have us make the statement on U.S. troops (see above) as a part of a bargain dealing with ^{the} Saar matter.

6. I reported that I had been working on a paper on the possible distribution of FOA activities if it were liquidated and said that we might be discussing this with Humphrey, Stassen and Anderson on this trip. He approved.

7. I said that the Italian Foreign Minister wanted me to lunch with him Thursday. I said I had declined but would call on him. I expected that he would bring up the matter of a possible visit on the part of Scelba. After some discussion, it was agreed that this would be acceptable, although I raised the question as to whether it should not also be clear that the visit was approved by Fanfani, who might be an important rival and perhaps a more effective Prime Minister than Scelba.
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8. I said that I would be unable to comment on the draft State of the Union speech before Monday, and the President agreed to give me this extension of time.

9. The following appointments were approved:

Cooper for India.

Stevens for the Philippines if it was clearly developed by Wilson that Stevens wanted the position.

Holmes for Iran if Brownell would be prepared ^{at} the Foreign Relations Committee hearing to testify that he knew of no moral impediment which should prevent his confirmation.

Ferguson for some special assignment such as the job offered to Milton Eisenhower which he at the luncheon declined on the ground that it was too early.

Wilcox as Special Assistant on the Charter Review matter.

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