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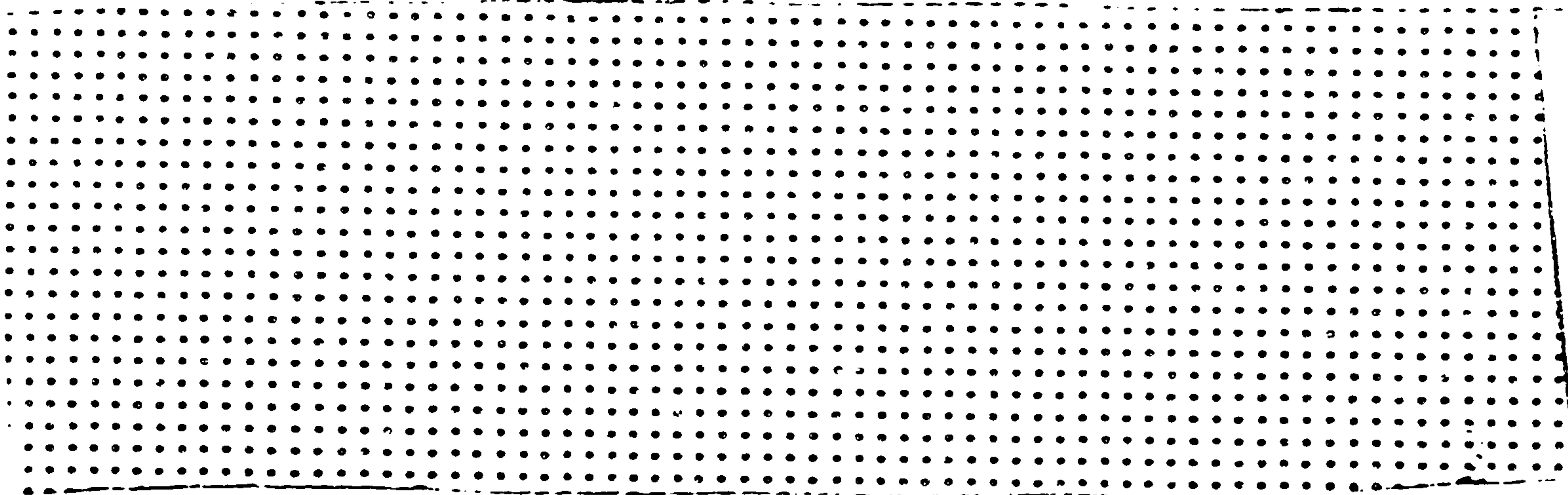
March 23, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
March 20, 1959, 7 PM

Others present: Prime Minister Macmillan, Mr. Selwyn
Lloyd, Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar, Sir Norman Brook
Ambassador Caccia, Mr. Bishop, Secretary Herter,
Ambassador Whitney, Mr. Merchant, General Goodpaster

There was an informal discussion before dinner, at which there was consideration of drafts prepared by the Foreign Office and the State Department relating to the portion of the response to the Soviets concerned with terms of agreement to hold a Summit Meeting. The American draft called for prior developments, in the context of a Foreign Ministers meeting, justifying such a Summit Meeting. The British draft spelled out the purposes of the Foreign Ministers meeting and indicated that if the Soviets shared this view of the purpose we would agree to holding a Summit Meeting on a certain date.

The point was strongly argued by the President and the Prime Minister, who expressed themselves most powerfully.



The President said the American people must also be considered in this matter. They too, have strong views. He had put the matter to them on the basis of going to a Summit Meeting only if developments

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so justify and he did not intend to change this position. We also are aware, through specific studies, that we might have casualties in war of the order of 70 million people. While others could talk about going to a Summit Meeting under threat of attack by the Soviets, he for one would not attend and they could hold their Summit Meeting without him.

The President countered by saying that prior to World War II Neville Chamberlain went to such a meeting and it is not the kind of meeting with which he intends to be associated.

After further exchange, the two agreed to think about the matter further over dinner, sleep on it, and have their diplomatic advisers study the question further.

While the statements were made with great firmness and sharpness, there was no evidence of personal animosity -- in fact just the opposite.

A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA

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