

~~TOP SECRET~~



133RD MEETING

MINUTES

SECRETARY'S STAFF COMMITTEE

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 7, 1945

AT 9:15 A.M., IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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Present: The Acting Secretary, Mr. Grew (presiding)  
Messrs. Acheson  
Dunn  
Hackworth  
General Holmes  
Messrs. MacLeish  
Pasvolsky  
Rockefeller  
- - -  
Thorp (for Mr. Clayton)  
- - -  
Benninghoff  
Lewis  
Yost

Absent: The Secretary  
Mr. Clayton

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The Committee met at 9:15 a.m.

URGENT BUSINESS

Terms of Japanese Surrender

MR. MACLEISH discussed a memorandum which he had submitted to the Secretary on July 6, setting forth his point of view regarding the proposed statement to clarify the meaning of unconditional surrender as it applies to Japan.

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THE ACTING SECRETARY explained that the proposed joint statement was one which he had been charged by the President to work out with the Secretaries of War and the Navy. The statement (in the form of a proclamation by the United States, Great Britain, China and possibly the Soviet Union) had been completed on July 6 in time for the Secretary to take with him to Berlin. He said it had been approved by Secretaries Stimson and Forrestal, Admiral King, and probably General Marshall. THE ACTING SECRETARY then read to the Committee the draft statement.

THE COMMITTEE discussed the arguments for and against the issuance of such a statement, particularly those relating to the question whether this Government should be placed in a position of supporting the retention of the institution of the Emperor. THE ACTING SECRETARY reviewed his arguments in favor of such a statement, including his belief that it is absolutely impossible to abolish the institution; that it is the military element and not the Emperor which has been responsible for the war; and that what is most important is to eliminate the military machine and the big industrial families of Japan. He emphasized again that such a statement could in no way be interpreted to be a modification of the terms of unconditional surrender.

MR. MacLEISH referred again to his feeling that the institution of the Emperor was an implement which the military machine had found useful in controlling the Japanese people. MR. ACHESON said he could not understand why, if the Emperor had no importance in Japanese war-making capacity, the military element in Japan should be so insistent on retaining the Emperor. He said there must be some reason why the people now in control consider the institution to be vital to them.

MR. PASVOLSKY raised the question how large an army would be needed to control the Japanese people if the throne were abolished. MR. MacLEISH pointed out that the political institutions of Germany had been abolished and we were proposing to control the situation there. MR. DUNN asked whether it was necessary to go

beyond

beyond a statement that the Japanese would be permitted to form a government which would be peaceful. MR. HACKWORTH asked why the statement could not merely say (1) that we propose to get rid of the military control of Japan, and (2) we will give the Japanese people the opportunity to develop a government of their own choosing. THE ACTING SECRETARY asked Mr. Hackworth to write out this suggested formula and to present it at the next meeting of the Committee. He suggested also that Mr. Dunn might bear in mind the Committee's discussion when he goes to the forthcoming Berlin meeting.

MR. ACHESON said he hoped there was nothing in the record of this Committee to indicate that the Committee had approved the proposed statement. THE ACTING SECRETARY said there was not, and that the Committee was not involved or responsible in any way for the statement which had been submitted to the Secretary on July 6.

#### Call of the French Ambassador on the President

THE ACTING SECRETARY reported that the French Ambassador had seen the President on July 6 to thank him on behalf of de Gaulle for the President's invitation to visit Washington and for his message to de Gaulle regarding the coal problem. The Ambassador asked that nothing be crystallized at the forthcoming Big Three meeting which would affect France until the French Government could be given a hearing. He said the French Government is most anxious that France be included in any committees which are set up to implement actions of concern to France such as reparations.

#### Call of the Italian Ambassador

THE ACTING SECRETARY reported that the Italian Ambassador had called on him on July 6 and had handed him a memorandum for the President regarding Italy's vital needs and aspirations. He also inquired about the status of the proposed Italian declaration of war on Japan. MR. DUNN undertook to look into this matter.

#### Internment

Internment of Japanese Officials at Bedford Springs

MR. ACHESON presented a memorandum prepared by Mr. Clattenburg of SWP reporting on a discussion with two Pennsylvania Congressmen regarding the proposed internment at Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania, of approximately 180 Japanese officials captured in Germany. The Congressmen reported that public opinion in their districts were greatly aroused over this proposed action. Mass meetings had been held and great indignation expressed. The memorandum recommended that the Department proceed with the proposed action but take certain steps to inform the public of the reasons for it, including conversations with union leaders. GENERAL HOLMES pointed out that the hotel where it was planned to intern the officials had not been open to the public recently; a contract had been made for its use and considerable money spent in preparing it; and it was also convenient to Washington, a factor which was important in view of the plans to interrogate the Japanese officials.

THE COMMITTEE agreed the Department should proceed with the internment as planned and should take measures recommended by Mr. Clattenburg to inform public opinion in the region. THE ACTING SECRETARY asked General Holmes to have a statement prepared for his use in the event he is questioned regarding the matter.

Delegation to Inauguration of President of Peru

MR. ROCKEFELLER said the forthcoming inauguration of the new President of Peru was a very important occasion and that it was important that a good American delegation be selected. THE COMMITTEE approved Mr. Rockefeller's suggestion that Attorney General Clark be invited to head the delegation and that Senator Pepper be invited to be a member, provided Senator Connally approves. THE COMMITTEE also approved Mr. Acheson's suggestion that the Latin American Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee be included in the delegation.

Argentine

Argentine Situation

MR. ROCKEFELLER informed the Committee of recent developments in the Argentine situation, including a report from Ambassador Braden that Vice President Perón had given assurances of complete protection for American newspaper correspondents. He said elections had been announced for November and although this announcement must be taken with a grain of salt, it was a step in the right direction.

MR. ROCKEFELLER also raised the question of the suppression of Nazi activities in Argentina and said consideration would have to be given to sending a mission (composed of representatives of Mr. Clayton's office) not only to Argentina but also to Colombia, Paraguay, and Uruguay in order to advise on the necessary measures to carry out control of Nazi firms. He pointed out that unless such action is taken with respect to the other three countries this Government will be in a vulnerable position in dealing with Nazi activities in Argentina.

MR. ROCKEFELLER said he was preparing a memorandum on the whole situation.

The Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Recorded by:  
J. H. Lewis