

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1960



MEMORANDUM FOR ANN WHITMAN

This morning in the Mansion the President was breakfast host to a group of Republican Senators. A list of those attending is attached. The President joined his guests at 7:45, and the meeting concluded with press photos on the North Portico steps at 9:00.

The discussions revolved entirely around world affairs, with the emphasis on the coming Summit meeting. The President said that, while no one should expect great or far-reaching achievements, he was nonetheless hopeful that some useful progress could be made. He indicated that, at the least, we could probably expect agreement to meet again in another year. He thought most of the Summit discussions would relate to disarmament, inspection, and the elimination of nuclear tests; and in that general context we might try to have the basic Berlin question discussed. He also thought we might get something done by way of a joint investigation into the matter of nuclear explosions under the 4.75 level.

The President said this would be a fairly long meeting. He reminded the group that the language barrier, and the accompanying need for continuous translations, literally multiplied the time normally consumed on the same subject matter in English. In this connection, the President again brought up the possibility that he might have to return to Washington "for a day or two" should major legislation decisions confront him. He specified that approval of routine bills would be no trouble, but that close questions of veto always require extensive consultations with interested Executive Branch officials.

On the Summit Conference itself, in a response to a question by Senator Javits, he said he did not think the recent theatrical behavior of Mr. Khrushchev would set the tone of the meeting; that the United States would not be encumbered by the U-2 incident; and that Khrushchev is much



too smart to believe this was the first time such a flight has occurred. Senator Cotton asked if Khrushchev is more a "front man" and less a ruler than was Stalin. The President said Khrushchev is a "strong man" and as close to an absolute dictator as current conditions in Russia will permit. He said Menshikov and Gromyko exert strong influence over Mr. K, and that on some items discussed while here, Khrushchev felt he had to check with some one or some group back in Moscow.

Senator Javits asked about relationships among our allies, and the President indicated they are first-rate; Adenauer and DeGaulle get along very well, DeGaulle recognizing that Adenauer must constantly speak for a united Germany; McMillan is sincere, and not politically motivated, in urging greater flexibility in Western dealings with the Soviets. On DeGaulle, the President said he and the French President are personal friends -- a relationship dating back to World War II when Roosevelt and Churchill despaired of getting along with DeGaulle and assigned General Eisenhower the task of working with him. In that task, the President recalled that one of his first acts after the liberation of Paris was to call on DeGaulle -- taking it on himself at the time to hail DeGaulle publicly as the "Provisional President of France". This, he said, is an action DeGaulle appreciated enormously, and one he repeatedly recalls in his talks with the President.

On other points, all in response to questions, the President said: We must in future years become accustomed to a growing change in the practice of diplomacy. The central feature of this change is a tendency to rely on individual participation in summit-type conferences. Because of this, we should reorganize our Government (the first Secretary idea) to relieve future Presidents of the heavy load these conferences now impose on the President because we have no official at the Prime Minister level. Intelligence is considerably more than so-called "spying", and a very important aspect is the constant evaluation -- and inter relation -- of public and private statements made by Government leaders the world over. There seems to be no sign of improvement in Cuba where things are moving further to the Left. Turkey and Korea are quieting down after the recent outbreaks. Without the many contributions of Syngman Rhee, Korea would not have either the development or independence it now enjoys. General Zhukov has faded out of view in Russia, and has apparently been retired from active public life.