

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 213

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS BRIEFING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1976, 12:48 P.M.

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MR. FUNSETH: Good afternoon.

I have one announcement. Available in the Press Office are copies of the announcement of an agreement to be signed between AID and ERDA for energy development for energy programs for developing countries. This notice is embargoed until 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Any questions?

Q Is the United States talking to Thailand about eventually returning a military presence to that country -- a U. S. military presence to that country?

A No.

Q Is the United States content with the present military relationship with the Thais?

A I will put it another way: I am not aware that the question has been reopened since we had our talks with Thailand, so I assume they are; yes.

Q The activities which once were carried out at -- was it Ramason? Have they been relocated

elsewhere in that region?

A We completed our withdrawal, as we had announced by the agreed date. The people we have there are people who are in our MAG mission. We have no plan nor intention to reopen the Ramasun base nor has the Thai Government made any proposal to that effect.

Q Elsewhere in the Pacific, say?

A I do not have the details on where various functions were relocated.

Q On another subject, about a month ago I think you or one of your deputies confirmed that the United States is interested in exploring a Soviet proposal on disarmament given to the United Nations in the form of a memo. Has there been any follow-up on that?

A I am not aware of any, Jim. Let me check the status of it.

Q Bob, are you aware of any intended effort, in the remaining days of the Administration, to complete a SALT agreement?

A I do not have any new information on the status of our consideration of the SALT proposal.

Q Well, how would you describe the negotiations

at this point?

A I cannot really say much more than that I understand that the SALT problem continues to be studied by those people directly concerned. ON BACKGROUND, it is not a question that I have asked recently or been briefed on recently. END BACKGROUND

Q Well, thank you. I asked against the background of a Chicago newspaper story a few days ago that Mr. Rumsfeld had quite different objectives than the Secretary regarding SALT negotiations -- that, in fact, the Secretary had his druthers. There might have been an agreement by now, but there was considerable restraint in the White House and the Pentagon. Do you care to get into that?

A No. (Laughter.)

Q Bob, can you characterize in any more detail the Viet-Nam meeting on Friday?

A No.

Q What's the status of the transition in terms of the State Department and the President-elect's team?

A No change, Jerry. Mr. Lake still has not -- Mr. Lake, who's been designated by the new Administration

to be in charge of transition -- has not set up an appointment with Mr. Eagleburger as yet.

Q Have they occupied any space in the building?

A No.

Q No contact at all?

A I think Mr. Lake and Mr. Eagleburger have talked to one another on the telephone about setting up an appointment. But Mr. Eagleburger is awaiting confirmation from Mr. Lake.

Q Is that an appointment for Secretary Kissinger to meet Mr. Lake?

A No. It is strictly for Mr. Lake setting up his first meeting with Mr. Eagleburger.

Q Last week I think you -- if I'm wrong, correct me -- I think you said Secretary Kissinger would be planning to meet with the transition team next week -- which would be this week.. Is that still being planned?

A Yes, I think that is still being planned. But, the timing may have been put off by Mr. Lake's postponement of his first meeting with Mr. Eagleburger.

Q Bob, there was an extensive story in The New York Times Saturday about the Secretary's --- if you want to call it "dickering" -- I can't think of a better word -- for his memoires and other things that he might do after he leaves office. Can you now or will you at some point be able to share with us the various proposals that he has under consideration?

A No; I do not think so. I think this is something that concerns the Secretary after he leaves office as Secretary of State. He has indicated that he will not make any decision on his personal plans until after the 20th, so I do not think it is something that I would be discussing in any substance here in the briefing.

Q Well, unless he leaves a spokesman with us after January 20th, after January 20th will really be too late to ask you, for instance, about what papers he considers his and what papers he considers the public's. That has been a matter of, considerable difference of opinion at the White House and other branches of Government -- whether the monitored telephone conversations, for instance, belong to him or belong

to the people -- whether -- et cetera. You know the questions I have in mind.

-If today's not the day for it, I at least think we're entitled to be told what papers will remain as Government property and which will be, sold or used in his personal pursuits.

A On the subject of papers -- the Secretary will comply fully with State Department regulations, which date back to 1967 and were approved by Mr. Rusk. And steps have been taken, I am told, to assure that the collection of the Secretary's papers does not include any original Government records. The Secretary, to my knowledge, has not decided what papers he will want to have; and, in any case, I want to emphasize that the original of all official documents will remain in the State Department.

Q There's that less familiar question of monitored telephone conversations, because, I'm not sure telephone conversations were monitored all the way back; I think it's a rather new procedure.

A I do not think it is new, Barry.

Q Well, the complete (inaudible) -- ?

A I think that refers to Secretarial notes of conversations. I do not believe that is new. I think that is a rather customary practice, both in Government and in private life. In any case, it is my recollection that the State Department's Legal Adviser ruled last January that secretarial notes of the Secretary's telephone conversations are personal papers.

Q Who was the Legal Adviser last January?

A Monroe Leigh.

Q Last January?

A That is right.

Q O.K. Are the Secretary's personal (inaudible)

A Right.

Q Repeat his name, please?

A Monroe Leigh.

Q Well, I guess you do have some guidance there, so maybe we could also ask you about the -- what about the situation -- the meetings with leaders of other governments where there's no American interpreter present. How do you handle

that situation?

A I do not understand what the problem is.

Q Well, the accounts --

A What are you talking about?

Q Well, the meetings with the Chinese leaders, for instance, when there was no American present. Are there no American -- (inaudible)?

A There was an American present.

Q -- no translator present -- the Secretary being alone from the U. S. side.

A Well --

Q I'm sorry. Go ahead.

A There have been meetings in China and in Moscow where there was not an American interpreter present; but there was a notetaker present, I think, at most of those meetings, and that would be part of the official record.

Q Bob, was the Secretary speaking to the Republican National Committee this week OFF THE RECORD?

A I understand that he is meeting with the representatives of the Republic National Committee tomorrow, I believe; but I do not have the details.

Q It's at the Shoreham. This is before he goes to Williamsburg?

A It is before he goes to Williamsburg.

Q Williamsburg is not a prepared speech, is that it?

A No. We will not have an advance text. The Secretary's intention is to make some introductory remarks, and then he will take questions from the parliamentarians present. We hope to have it piped into the briefing room beginning at 2:30.

Q Let me go back to these papers once more.

A Yes.

Q You say the Secretary's papers do not include any original Government papers and that all originals will remain here.

A Yes.

Q Does this mean that he can have burned copies or Xerox copies of any and all papers he wants, take them with him and make whatever use he chooses of all such documents?

A He will have certain copies with him in

accordance with the '67 regulations. Of course, these documents will be kept in a Government facility so that the classified documents are properly secured.

Q So he can't take them to his private residence and work there?

A Not classified documents. Perhaps something could be worked out for a work basis on that, but there then would be provisions for adequate storage. The plan is that all of the documents will be kept in a Government facility --

Q But do you --

A The procedures he intends to follow are procedures exactly comparable to those followed by his predecessors in this regard.

Q So he could possibly take some to his residence and work under certain conditions?

A ON BACKGROUND, I suppose so, but I really have not addressed that question. I do not know what his plans are.

Q Bob, I take it everything you say refers also to his time as National Security Adviser -- the same general rule? I don't think there are regulations

governing that, but will he follow the same general rule that you just outlined for us?

A ON BACKGROUND, I would think so; but I really am not familiar with regulations as far as the National Security Council is concerned.

Q Will he evacuate this building on January 20th or will he occupy some office space somewhere else in the building so as to be near the papers?

A ON BACKGROUND, I assume he plans to leave the building on the 20th of January. I have heard no plan for him to have another office in the building. I would almost rule that out.

Q On a related subject, will he retain his Secret Service bodyguard after the 20th?

A I do not know.

Q Would you find out --

A I do not know anything about that.

Q Would you find out, please?

A Yes; I will look into that.

Q Bob, will the Secretary be attending the installation of the Mexican President on December 1st?

A ON BACKGROUND, the White House will probably be announcing, either today or tomorrow, that

the President has asked the Secretary to head the U. S. delegation to the inauguration of the Mexican President. The White House will also be announcing the names of other members of the official delegation.

Q He'll be the head of the delegation?

A Yes.

Q December 1st?

A I think it is November 30th, 1st and 2nd.

It begins on November 30th. I am not sure when the official inaugural ceremonies end.

Q Will that be when he will go to Mexico or will he go in advance and maybe spend the Thanksgiving holidays on vacation someplace?

A STILL ON BACKGROUND, I think he is considering leaving a few days early; but he has made no decision.

Q You mean for a vacation?

A Yes.

Q And when he's in Mexico for those three days, will he be having any sort of talks with the Mexican Government -- any official talks, or is he just going to represent us at the ceremony?

A ON BACKGROUND, I am unable to answer that question. I do not think any details have been made as to his program. We will have to wait until it is announced.

Q The few days early will be if he goes to someplace like Acapulco?

A Well, take a few days--

Q I mean that's what you're talking about?

A ON BACKGROUND, yes.

Q And how about a few days after? Will he come back from the inaugural or go back to vacation?

A All of this is ON BACKGROUND. It is my assumption that he will be returning directly to Washington after the inauguration. END BACKGROUND.

Q On the Viet-Nam talks again, the Vietnamese issued a statement -- I guess late Friday night -- in which they indicated they would be responsive to the American insistence on an accounting of the MIAs. Did we find the statement encouraging or a positive step or anything of the kind?

A George, I am not able to go beyond what

I said on Friday about the talks.

Q No new date set for another meeting?

A No.

Q Thank you.

A You are welcome
(Whereupon, at 1:03 p.m., the briefing

was concluded.)
