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15, 1960)
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PAWLEY, WILLIAM

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PANAMA

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February 19, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
February 15, 1960

Others present:

Secretary Herter
General Goodpaster

The President began by saying that he was receiving requests for him to do things, such as signing a great number of pictures, that were coming from officials of the State Department without apparently having been seen by Mr. Herter. He said that he would like to have requests of this kind come to him over the initials of Mr. Herter, so that he could be sure they had been considered by someone with high level responsibility.

He said he had been talking to Mr. Pawley. He is a most knowledgeable man as regards Latin American affairs, particularly in the Caribbean area. He had, for example, gone to Cuba as an emissary from civilians having interest there, but with the knowledge of Mr. Dulles and Mr. Rubottom, to get Batista to abdicate in favor of a junta. Batista would have done this had the U. S. guaranteed to keep the junta in power, but this could not be done.

The President said Mr. Pawley had told him that the leaders from many other Latin American countries wanted the United States to do something covertly in Cuba. If we were to get rid of Fidel Castro the rest would fall, they say, like a house of cards. The President added to Mr. Herter that it has crossed his mind that we should make some further use of Mr. Pawley in a Latin American assignment. Mr. Herter said that Mr. Pawley had had large interests in Santo Domingo which would interfere with this but that he has disposed of them. The President said Mr. Pawley had told him he had disposed of all his holdings in Cuba, Santo Domingo, Mexico and Haiti. Mr. Herter said that the situation in Santo Domingo is very bad in that the Trujillo Government is

acting against the moderates and may soon create a situation like that in Cuba where the opposition is taken over by wild radicals.

Mr. Herter asked the President if he would be agreeable to having a luncheon for the Latin American Ambassadors before he departs on his trip. The President expressed agreement, and said he would like to have it on Thursday. Subsequently, Mr. Herter received information that many of the Latin American Ambassadors would not be here in the remaining days before the President's trip. He suggested the idea of having a luncheon afterward, for which invitations would be issued now. The President indicated agreement with this proposal.

Mr. Herter next suggested that the President should hold a rather full meeting to consider whether it is in the U. S. interest to propose the cut-off of fissionable material production as part of our disarmament offering. The President commented in relation to this that it is clear that weapons can be hidden so as to deny inspection. He is not so concerned regarding the concealing of production -- his best information is that this can be inspected against. Therefore he is willing to consider such a cut-off. Mr. Herter said the Defense authorities, particularly the JCS, very much want to have continued production to provide material for smaller weapons. The President said he could see the need for this material for anti-aircraft weapons. He felt the Chiefs should concern themselves with the question of getting observation and inspection procedures in operation which would permit us to check on what China is doing. Mr. Herter said he is able to make no progress on this issue and that he thinks Defense may be stalling on it. He suggested the President have the whole group in, and the President agreed to do so, asking me to try to get it set up for Thursday.

Mr. Herter next turned to the matter of preparations for the Latin American trip. He said that Mr. Rubottom and Dr. Milton Eisenhower had had a thorough discussion on this. Regarding Panama, he said there is a real deterioration in progress. A demonstration against the United States is being organized for March 1. A very ugly spirit is developing. Mr. Herter thought that he or the President should make a statement that the U. S. is not going to do anything under duress. He suggested possibly

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appointing a commission to look at this whole situation. He commented that Mr. Burroughs believes that there should be a State Department man on the Board of the Panama Canal Company. The President thought this kind of problem between State and the Canal authorities should be resolved between themselves. His general view is that in Panama we should have anticipated and acted on these problems in a more forehanded way. Now it is too late.

Mr. Herter recalled that Ambassador Arias, after receiving definite assurances from the President on these matters, deliberately failed to make them known in Panama on his return in order to further his political intentions.

Mr. Herter next turned to the matter of The Netherlands' request for a nuclear submarine. He said we had just turned the Dutch down on their request for landing rights in Los Angeles, on the grounds that there is nothing they could give us in return. The Dutch are making a big issue of the landing rights decision in Holland, indicating that this has humiliated them. The question of the submarine goes back to a pledge that was made in 1957, at the NATO meeting in December. The problem is that the AEC is willing only to sell a complete submarine to the Dutch, and not give them atomic information until two years from now. There has been some talk of selling them the reactor, permitting them to build the submarine and providing them the information earlier. The State Department is at the end of its rope on this matter. The President said he is not sure where authority lies regarding the question of the air route for the Dutch. He said the argument on reciprocal benefits leaves him rather cold. I mentioned to him that the State Department has a major role in such determinations, and in this one had recommended against the Dutch request.

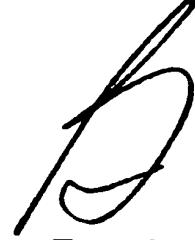
Mr. Herter next told the President that State has prepared the statement on the juridical position of the West regarding Berlin, requested by the President, but that it is too lengthy and he wants to cut it down. Regarding the question of the new passes for our liaison personnel in East Germany, Mr. Herter said he is having differences with our allies, especially the British. This includes

an argument as to whether the intelligence we get through the operations of the liaison group is really worthwhile.

Mr. Herter mentioned that Senator Fulbright had told him that he would sit on the resolution concerning the Panamanian flag which recently passed the House. The President recalled that we had talked about this matter many months ahead of the crisis. At that time we could have done something quite small but effective. Time has now slipped away and it is no longer possible to take this action.

On the question of reorganization of the Executive Branch in the field of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Herter said that Senator Fulbright is in agreement with the First Secretary concept, holding that the President is entitled to the services of a Prime Minister. The President said essentially what is involved is to have a Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Herter again reverted to the problem in Panama, saying that it is similar to the colonial problems that have beset some of our allies. The President said he has been much interested in alternate routes for a canal, such as the one through Colombia. Mr. Herter said we would have to negotiate with the Colombians. The President suggested getting the present ambassador in now and letting him know that our engineers do not believe that we can put both a sea level and a lock canal in the area of Panama where the canal now is. He would like to conduct a joint survey with the Colombians on a sealevel canal of larger size, without obligation on the part of either party, and at nominal cost. Mr. Herter recalled that our idea for such a canal was to do the excavating with nuclear explosions. He thought the President's suggestion would be a good thing to do. The President asked that he get Mr. Dillon to talk with the Colombians.



A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA