

Johnson Reaffirms Kennedy Policy on Aiding South Vietnam in War on Communists

PRESIDENT GIVEN BRIEFING BY LODGE

He Also Holds to the Goal of Withdrawing Some U.S. Troops in Asian Nation

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general policy line emphasizing the following: First, the central point of United States policy on South Vietnam remains, namely, to assist the new government there in winning the war against the Communist Vietcong insurgents. The adoption of all measures should be determined by their potential contribution to this overriding objective.

Second, the White House statement of Oct. 2 on the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam remains in force. This statement, reflecting a decision of the National Security Council, said the program for training of Vietnamese troops should have progressed by the end of this year to the point "where 1,000 United States military personnel" can be withdrawn.

The United States now has 16,500 military men in South Vietnam.

Seeks Unity of Purpose

Third, all United States agencies represented in Vietnam are to assist the present Government in its tasks of consolidation and the development of public support for programs directed toward winning the war.

President Johnson, according to a White House source, asked that all agencies in the field support these policies with full unity of purpose.

When asked why the President should feel it necessary to ask for unity, the source said that since the visit to South Vietnam of Secretary McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, last September, the agencies in the field had been united on policies to be followed. However, he said that prior to that time there had been differences of views.

It is known that the Defense Department and the C.I.A. thought political reforms by the government of then President Ngo Dinh Diem should take second place to the task of fighting the Communists.

The State Department, on the other hand, felt increasingly that public support for the war effort depended on political and economic reforms, particularly a "cessation of the rule of the Buddhists by the Roman Catholic-dominated regime."

Despite the emphasis President Johnson laid today on winning the war, officials said that at Honolulu there had been a concentration on "something besides winning the war."

Economic Base Cited

The conference participants, it was said, were fully aware that a sounder economic base for the new government must be built and that the lot of the villagers must be improved. It was agreed that unless these objectives could be achieved, the government might well collapse, even though the war against the Communists was going better.

Consequently, it was said, there was agreement that the United States must provide as much economic aid as possible. It was realized that the uncertain political situation in South Vietnam required a delicate balancing of economic measures. On the one hand, it was explained, there must be some austerity to curb inflation; on the other, the austerity must not be so great as to generate disaffection with the new government.

All in all, officials said, the tone of the Honolulu meeting was hopeful despite recognition of the pitfalls.

It is safe to conclude, officials said today, that all this was conveyed to President Johnson.

Officials cautioned against interpreting today's meeting as an indication of renewed crisis, Ambassador Lodge, they noted, had been scheduled to come here after the Honolulu meeting to report to President Kennedy. He was to have dined with Mr. Kennedy today.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy, they said, it was decided that Ambassador Lodge should come as planned. It was decided also that his report to President Johnson should not be postponed until after the funeral of President Kennedy tomorrow.

The Ambassador, they said, wished to return to Saigon as soon as possible in order to convey to the government personally his assurances that the new Administration meant no change of policy.

Having dealt with South Vietnam, President Johnson, it was learned, will turn this week to the problems facing the Alliance for Progress in Latin America. He will confer with Secretary Rusk and Assistant Secretary of State Edwin M. Martin. The latter has been in Argentina in connection with the cancellation of contracts with United States oil companies.



ATTEND SERVICES IN WASHINGTON: President and Mrs. Johnson, and their daughter Lucy Baines Johnson, arriving at St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church. At the rear is Representative Homer Thornberry of Texas.

Johnsons Go to Church on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 — President Johnson prayed today for John F. Kennedy and his family and heard a congregation pray for the success of his Administration in banishing hate from the nation.

With his wife Lady Bird and 16-year-old daughter, Lucy Baines, the President attended services at 11 o'clock at St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill.

Secret Service men lined the back of the brick Gothic-style church. Outside, several hundred persons gathered on the sidewalk to watch the President, who entered and left the church by a side door.

The President sat in a pew near the front. When he stood, his tall figure could be seen among the parishioners.

Throughout the 70-minute service there was a note of mourning for the dead President and prayers for the living—from the opening psalm beginning "The Lord hear thee in the day of troubles" to the traditional hymn of "Before the Lord Jehovah's Throne."

The Rev. William M. Baxter, the pastor, said in his sermon that the murder of President Kennedy was a tragedy for the nation.

On returning to his office after the ceremonies in the Capitol Rotunda, his face was drawn, and tears welled in his eyes.

After the meeting with Mr. Lodge, the President had courtesy visits from Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois and Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago and from Lieut. Gov. Preston Smith and Attorney General Waggoner Carr of Texas.

The press of business and visits kept the President in his office until after 7 P.M.

Johnson Speech Prepared

Officials at the White House and State Department worked today on drafts of the address the President will deliver to Congress Wednesday. The speech, which will be broadcast by radio and television, will almost certainly not deal in any detail with specific problems.

It is the President's intention, officials said, to assure the nation and the world of the continuity of the essential purposes and policies of the United States. Beyond that, he will appeal—as President Truman did 18 years ago—for the support of the Congress and the nation and will assure them he will fill his office to the best of his ability.

Another visitor was Robert B. Anderson, a Texas Democrat, who was Secretary of the Treasury under President Eisenhower.

Kennedy should unite the nation in a new awareness of what it had inherited in its institutions. The lesson for the sermon was taken from a passage in II Corinthians reading: "If God be for us, then who can be against us."

Deplores U.S. Attitudes

Mr. Baxter deplored the "take-it-for-granted attitude" that he said had developed toward national institutions and the tendency, particularly on the far right and left, to grasp for easy solutions to complex problems.

As a nation, he observed, we have been brought up to believe in a "sure and enduring order" in which law and justice are "automatic fruits."

With the murder of President Kennedy, he said, the "normal order has broken down" and with it should come a realization of the frailty of our national institutions and the "chaos" that lies behind them.

It has taken a crisis such as the death of President Kennedy, he said, to "bring us together into a new awareness of human reality."

He expressed concern that the mood of the moment would pass and that courage would "grasp at easy answers."

Looking at President Johnson, the clergyman observed that if this mood of indifference again set in, "our leadership will suffer from loneliness."

During the service, Mr. Baxter led prayers that God would receive Mr. Kennedy "into the arms of Thy mercy" and that He would imbue the souls of members of his family with patience.

There were prayers for the health and prosperity of the new President, Mr. Johnson, and his family joined prayers for the unity of the nation and removal of "all our hate and prejudice."

After the service the Johnsons went to the parish hall where members of the congregation gathered for coffee. The President shook hands with the children's choir, with many parishioners. He remained about 15 minutes and then went to the White House.

President Johnson, a member of the Christian Church, presumably decided to attend St. Mark's today because Mrs. Johnson, an Episcopalian, has frequently worshipped there.

Recently engaged in consultations on union.

The others are the Methodist, Protestant Episcopal, United Presbyterian, United Church of Christ and Evangelical United Brethren denominations.

Representatives of the six bodies have met several times in recent years. They will meet again in Princeton, N. J.

The Disciples are represented in Manhattan by the Park Avenue Christian Church at 85th Street. Its minister is the Rev. Dr. Hampton Adams. Last May the church dedicated a million-dollar parish building.

The denomination is dedicated to the principles of social justice and the application of Christian ethics to the problems of today. At its annual assembly last month in Miami Beach delegates agreed to raise funds to aid ministers who lost their posts because of their stand against racial discrimination.

The ranking Protestant layman in the nation is a member of the Disciples denomination. He is J. Irwin Miller, a manufacturer from Columbus, Ind.

Three years ago Mr. Miller was elected president of the National Council of Churches, a cooperative federation of most of the major Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches in the United States.

His three-year term will end next month at the council's triennial general assembly in Philadelphia.

Last Friday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. Gaines M. Cook, executive secretary of the denomination, sent the following telegram to President Johnson from church headquarters in Indianapolis:

"In this hour of tragedy a group of executives related to the International Convention of Christian Churches were in session as you were sworn into office and send their expressions of confidence and assurances that you are in their prayers."

Woman Brings a Tribute Of Single Chrysanthemum

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—Elaborate floral tributes to President Kennedy poured in today, but a young woman who never knew him brought her small gift personally—a single snow-white chrysanthemum the size of an orange.

"I wanted to do something—I brought a flower," she explained as her token to the President was placed with the costly wreaths in a nearby room, to be placed on the President's grave after the funeral tomorrow.

A CROWD GATHERS AT JOHNSON HOME

Arrival of President's Wife Is Virtually Unnoticed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (AP)—For the first time since Lyndon B. Johnson became President on Friday, a crowd gathered outside his home in northwest Washington today.

Mrs. Johnson arrived almost unnoticed at 2:40 P.M. after having said good-bye to Mrs. John F. Kennedy at the Capitol, where the body of President Kennedy had been taken.

Mr. Johnson rode in the limousine with Mrs. Kennedy and the two young Kennedy children in the procession from the White House to the Capitol.

Waiting at home for Mrs. Johnson was a myriad of matters to be handled. Among other things, she will have to begin moving to the White House, but there has been no announcement of when the move will be made.

More than 100 persons stood in the sunshine on a cool Sunday afternoon just looking at the Johnson home, which once belonged to Mrs. Perle Mesta, famed Washington party giver.

The neighborhood, known as Spring Valley, has large homes with large lawns. The sightseers spread across the lawns near the Johnson home, which resembles a French chateau. It sits atop a small hill with extensive grounds around it.

Policemen stood guard around the Johnson home, and a Secret Service man was at the wrought-iron gate to the driveway.

At one point Lucy ran her own errand, driving her own car, a white convertible with a black top. She is now in the family of the President, so a Secret Service man rode beside her.

They returned a few minutes later with another girl, apparently a friend of Lucy, riding in the back seat.

The sightseers were interested in all of the television paraphernalia that had been set up across the street and watched reporters at their work.

Telephones for the reporters have been placed on the ground underneath two maple trees across the street from the Johnson home.

Various White House cars and limousines came and went at the home during the afternoon. The callers included Representative Joe M. Kilgore, Democrat of Texas, and his family.

Night of Stars Show Will Honor Kennedy

THEY CAME TO BID A FRIEND GOOD-BYE

'I Feel as if a Member of My Family Had Died'

By NAN ROBERTSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 — "I came to pay my respects to the President," they said, over and over. "It was the least I could do."

The people watching the casket go up Capitol Hill from the White House.

Then they followed their slain President in the hundreds of thousands to see him lie in state at the Capitol Rotunda.

"I feel as if a member of my family had died, I really do," said a Detroit housewife.

As the sun or gold, sparkling afternoon-sank behind the Capitol today, the patient, waiting multitude stood 20 deep across the broad sidewalks, eastward for a mile and more.

Many came from other cities. Two youths walked the 40 miles from Baltimore overnight.

Hundreds Sleep on Ground

Hundreds began gathering at Capitol Plaza at 2 o'clock this morning, bringing blankets and pillows to sleep on ground soggy from the dreaching rains of yesterday.

Just before the President's cortege began the slow march from the White House, two young women hurried across Lafayette Park toward the ranks of spectators.

"We were going to watch it on television in our room at the Y," said one. The Y.W.C.A. is only two blocks away.

"But the more we watched," she said, "the more we felt we just had to be here ourselves. It's so awful we felt we had to do something—something."

Shortly after the word of the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas circulated in incredulous whispers through the crowd packed across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, hundreds were listening to the news on small transistor radios.

Dismay and Horror

The instantaneous reaction was dismay and horror at the senseless violence, rather than triumph at the fate of the man supposed to be the President's assassin.

Two hours later, as thousands pressed into the plaza east of the Capitol, they heard of Oswald's death. Announcers interrupted the broadcast of Senator Mike Mansfield's eulogy over the tier inside the Rotunda.

"Oh, my God," said an Army sergeant in the crowd, shaking his head with the others.

"When is all this going to end?"

A Portion of Guilt for All

New Violence Underlines Need to Fix Public as Well as Private Responsibility

By JAMES RESTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 — A tale of two cities. And a range of the hand-cuffed human being suggested but not convicted of assassinating President Kennedy.

This was being shown all over the world tonight, and people here were so sick of it that the tendency was to punish the culprit and be done with it. But these two murders raise fundamental questions in the minds of reflective men and women here and cannot be forgotten so easily.

Is the evidence on Lee Harvey Oswald to be left with the Dallas police and the F.B.I.? Is the public not entitled to know what was said to and by Oswald in the Dallas jail? Cannot a Presidential or some other objective commission carry on a private investigation, interrogate Oswald's wife and brother, and finally present its findings to the nation?

The Dallas side of the tale cannot be left where it is without adding to the moral confusion Chief Justice Warren and Dean Sayre talked about today.

Inalienable Rights

More than the policemen and the politicians, the jurists and the philosophers here are insisting that the "inalienable rights" of the individual in this country, as the founding fathers insisted, came not from the state but from their Creator, and that nobody has a right to take them away.

The point at issue here was defined very clearly by Walter Lippmann. "The decay of decency in the modern age . . . he wrote many years ago, 'the treatment of human beings as things, as the mere instruments of power and ambition, is without doubt the consequence of the decay of the belief in man as something more than an animal animated by highly conditioned reflexes and chemical reactions.'"

"For unless man is something more than that, he has no rights that anyone has a right to respect, and there are no limitations upon his conduct which he is bound to obey. This is the forgotten foundation of democracy in the only sense in which democracy is truly valid and of liberty in the only sense in which it can hope to endure. The liberties we talk about defending today were established by men who took their conception of man from the great, central religious tradition of Western civilization, and the liberties we inherit can almost certainly not survive the abandonment of that tradition."

Both Dallas and Washington have forgotten this foundation, and this is the point the preachers and the jurists were trying to make today. The President of the United States, said Chief Justice Warren in "chosen to embody the ideals of our people, the faith we have in our institutions, and our belief in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

This is probably the single hope in the tragedy. For it may be that only the shock of this ordeal can help the nation recover a clearer vision of how a free and civilized people must live.

leaving the Capitol. The police reported that Independence Avenue, along which she had been scheduled to go, was "full of people in the street."

In midafternoon, many of those leaving Capitol Plaza said they planned to return during the night, when, they believed, the line pressing toward the Capitol steps would be shorter.

The official plan at first was to close the Rotunda at 9 tonight. When the throng swelled far beyond expectations, it was decided to keep the Rotunda open as long as there were people wishing to enter.

Early in the afternoon, a young Nigerian watching the sad procession was asked how he thought his countrymen would react to the assassination.

"The African, who is a student here, said: 'I think there must still be disbelief in my country. We cannot believe that a people so rich and so great as the United States would do this cruel thing. I feel sorry for you American people.'"

St. Louis Mourns Kennedy At Rally for Equal Rights

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 24 (AP)—A crowd estimated by police at 35,000, including civic and religious leaders, gathered before the old St. Louis Courthouse near the Mississippi River today to mourn President Kennedy's death.

2 SUGGEST JOHNSON MEET KHRUSHCHEV

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (UPI)—Two Senators said today that a "get-acquainted" meeting between President Johnson and Premier Khrushchev might be useful under certain conditions.

Both Senators, J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, and Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Republican of Iowa, opposed an early summit conference or negotiating session between the two heads of state—anything more than a chance to "feel each other out."

Mr. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he believed Mr. Johnson and Mr. Khrushchev must be profoundly curious about each other. He saw in the Soviet leader's "expression of condolence" to the United States yesterday a hopeful sign that "he would like to maintain reasonably good relations."

Mr. Hickenlooper, the committee's ranking Republican, and Mr. Fulbright generally agreed that the nation's foreign policy would remain unchanged, although perhaps carried out in a new pattern under Mr. Johnson.

The Senators appeared on a television interview over the American Broadcasting Network. Mr. Fulbright "strongly" recommended that Dean Rusk be retained as Secretary of State.

WIESBADEN, Germany, Nov. 24. (Reuters)—United States servicemen throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East will join in honoring President John F. Kennedy tomorrow.

All military units will parade in the morning and their commanding officers will formally announce the death of the Commander in Chief. Messages will be read from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, Air Force Secretary Eugene M. Zuckert and Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff.

All civilian employees will be excused from work tomorrow and service-family schools will be closed.

U.S. Forces Abroad to Join In Kennedy Tribute Today

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 24 (AP)—A crowd estimated by police at 35,000, including civic and religious leaders, gathered before the old St. Louis Courthouse near the Mississippi River today to mourn President Kennedy's death.

The scene was the place where the Dred Scott case was first heard in the middle of last century. The march originally had been scheduled as an interfaith procession for equal rights.

Leaders of the three major religious faiths and Mayor Raymond R. Tucker spoke. They said that the President would have wanted them to continue the meeting, and that his death only had emphasized the steps Mr. Kennedy had taken to ease racial tension and promote equality.

It was the largest demonstration in the 199-year history of St. Louis.

Street to Honor Kennedy

FOGGIA, Italy, Nov. 24 (Reuters)—The city council of Foggia, a provincial capital of 120,000 people in Southern Italy, has decided to name the main avenue of a new residential district after President Kennedy.