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VISIT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY GORDON WALKER  
OCTOBER 26-27, 1964

Talking Points Paper

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Far East

By JB, NARS, Date 7-29-77

Communist China

The President's statements of October 16 and 18 reflect our views of the significance of the Chinese Communists' nuclear explosion. We expect Peiping to maintain a "peace offensive" to dramatize their nuclear status, to promote their propaganda call for a world conference to ban nuclear weapons, and to seek diplomatic recognition. We recognize there will be increased pressures to bring the Chinese Communists into the ENDC. If admitted, they might block progress in the ENDC. Nevertheless, we have long believed they would have to come into disarmament arrangements at some stage, and we are considering the question of demands for their participation which probably will be raised. Our position will have to be reviewed by the new administration before it is fixed.

Labor Government comment on the Chinese nuclear explosion paralleled ours, downgrading its military significance, while reaffirming HMG's commitment to South East Asia and support of the test ban treaty. Labor would probably strongly back any effort to include the Chicom in the ENDC.

Vietnam

A new government is supposed to be installed on October 27, the personalities of which are still unknown. Throughout the political turmoil, the military effort has continued without apparent slowdown. We continue committed to support of South Vietnam and appreciate British assistance.

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The British have firmly supported us in Vietnam, in part as a quid pro quo for support of their effort in Malaysia. No change is expected in this position.

#### Laos

We are seeking to resolve Laos' problems within the context of the 1962 Geneva agreement and in the meantime are assisting the government of Souvanna Phouma in preventing a Pathet Lao takeover. We consider the British role of co-chairman essential to this effort. We continue to oppose another conference on Laos unless the essential pre-conditions are met by the Communists.

During his Moscow visit, Harold Wilson accepted the idea of a conference in principle, but endorsed the need for pre-conditions.

#### Cambodia

We continue to see little value in accepting Sihanouk's demands for a Geneva conference to "guarantee Cambodia's neutrality and territorial integrity", in the absence of a clear idea of precisely what he wants and in view of Thai and South Vietnamese opposition. We are convinced that bilateral negotiations between the RKG and the countries directly concerned, Thailand and South Vietnam, provide the best means for developing a mutually acceptable solution.

While the British have generally supported our position, Foreign Secretary Butler showed increased interest in a conference towards the end of his term. Labor has not given any indication of its views on Cambodia.

#### Indonesia-Malaysia

The United States considers that Britain together with Australia and New Zealand must bear the burden for the defense of Malaysia and external assistance to the federation. We believe it essential that Britain and its allies retain sufficient military power in the area to deter and if necessary to deal with possible escalation of the conflict as a result of Indonesian initiatives since we believe that

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it has been the presence of such force that has brought a halt to Indonesian attacks on Malaya. We believe the chances that Indonesia is looking for a mutually acceptable resolution of confrontation are slim, but that for tactical reasons at least, Britain and Malaysia should continue to be willing to explore recent Indonesian approaches requesting talks. (The Third Deputy Prime Minister of Indonesia gave an oral message to the British Embassy in Djakarta to convey to the new British Foreign Secretary stressing the importance of direct talks between Indonesia and Britain.)

Indian Ocean Islands

U.S. planning in the Indian Ocean area for a communications station and austere supporting facilities is moving forward. We expect quite soon to inform the UK that a recent survey of Indian Ocean islands turned up several sites having potential military use. We also expect to recommend that the UK take the necessary steps to assure their availability by placing them directly under London administration.

The UK is quite interested in some form of US/UK military cooperation in the Indian Ocean area, provided the political problems can be surmounted. They will in any event want to proceed very carefully. They may wish to reserve on any projected transfer of administration to London.

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