

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1961

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Memorandum of Discussion on Laos
Cabinet Room, February 8, 1961

Present: The President, Messrs. Rusk, Parsons, Bohlen,
McNamara, Nitze, Dulles, Bissell, W. P. Bundy
Rostow

The Laos situation was reviewed and the following matters dealt with.

Supplementary supply to Phoumi's offensive will, for the time being, take place through Udon.

The SEATO examination of a joint force will not occur concurrently with the neutralization effort. It will be explored only should the position deteriorate, perhaps in the late March SEATO meeting.

The Secretary of State will promptly explore whether the SEATO meeting can be at a ministerial level.

Private reassurances of the seriousness of our intent to hold the SEATO area will promptly be given to SEATO nations.

The Concept telegram awaits possible modification after initial discussions with the British.

The question of a message to the Russians on Laos at a relatively early stage was raised and postponed until after discussions with Thompson.

The problem of KMT forces, formerly in Burma, now in Laos, was discussed. The negative reaction from Chiang Kai-shek concerning their removal was noted.

White House

W. W. Rostow

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