

MEMORANDUM


THE WHITE HOUSE

1594

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR LUCY WINCHESTER

FROM: GENERAL HAIG 

SUBJECT: Proposal that the President Meet with Bobby Fisher

This is in reply to your recent memorandum to Henry suggesting that perhaps the President should meet with Bobby Fisher before Fisher plays Boris Spassky for the world chess championship.

It is our understanding that the dates and locations for the championship are still not finally decided, but that it is probable that the match will begin on June 21 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. If this schedule is confirmed, the proposed meeting would appear to be a fine idea. It would be best to schedule the meeting for early June, after the President returns from his Moscow visit.

1596

ACTION
February 18, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: Bobby Fisher Meeting with the President

Lucy Winchester has sent a memorandum to Henry, Alex Butterfield and David Parker (Tab B) suggesting that the President might meet with chess player Bobby Fisher before Fisher plays the Soviet world titleholder, Boris Spassky, for the world championship.

Generally, this would appear to be a fine idea. Fisher is probably the world's best chess player and thus a credit to the United States. The meeting would be very much in keeping with the President's practice of meeting with outstanding Americans in sports and other fields; it would be well received by the US chess community.

The championship is tentatively scheduled to begin between June 21 and June 24 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, with the first 12 games to be played there and the final 12 to be played in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fisher wanted Belgrade; Spassky wanted Reykjavik.) It would probably be best to schedule a meeting for Fisher in early June after the President returns from his Moscow visit. If you agree, the memorandum for your signature at Tab A would go advise Lucy Winchester.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to Lucy Winchester at Tab A.

ADC:hc

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

FOR: HENRY KISSINGER ✓
ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD
DAVID PARKER

FROM: LUCY WINCHESTER LW

SUBJECT: Bobby Fischer (See Attached Article)

As we know, chess has been the national insanity of the USSR for decades and I understand that if our Fischer wins the Grand Match against Boris Spassky, it will be a National Day of Mourning in Russia, and that the title is more coveted than Olympic Gold Medals. Perhaps the President should meet Mr. Fischer before he leaves for the match.