

Pre-press conference briefing, June 17, 1959

MIG shooting. The President will say that he has asked for a thorough investigation, that at present all he knows is what he has seen in press reports. There was some caustic criticism of the "press conference" by the crew members of the ship and the Admiral's comments. The responsibility certainly lies with the Admiral in the area.

White House Budget. The President read the figures. The increased costs, whatever they are, merely reflect the increase in salaries, not increase in number of positions.

Geneva. The President was well versed on this and needed no staff comments. No progress since press conference of two weeks ago.

Nuclear test negotiations. The President read paper prepared by Dr. Killian and offered certain comments on it. At one point he laughed and said that "they" were always trying to think up new code names to confuse him. After he read the paper he said he wanted to be sure that whatever was done, was done on a scientific basis and not on a political basis.



Vice President - Dr. Milton. The President roared when it was reported to him that some newspapers have said that Dr. Milton was going along with the Vice President to Moscow to "spy" on him, and termed utterly ridiculous the second thought that Dr. Milton was going to take away the stage somewhat from the Vice President. The fact of the matter was, said the President, that the Vice President had asked Milton to go.

London story that our Ambassador met with Prime Minister and that that would lead to the President and Prime Minister meeting, has been denied in London.

France. There may be questions about atomic information and weapons; about France and NATO; and about possible meeting with De Gaulle. As to the first, we retain control of atomic weapons in any country to which given, and we are not permitted by law to give materials and designs to any country that does not have "substantial capacity" to use such things. We do exchange some information with United Kingdom and can, by virtue of Canada's capacity, do the same with them.

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