

THE WHITE HOUSE
 PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
 DAILY DIARY

Date, 23 December 1966

The President began his day at (Place) Korat, Royal Thai AF Base, Thailand Day Saturday

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expenditure Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
					The President was up and dressed by 5:00 a. m. --in khaki shirt and pants and battle jacket. Walt Rostow and Wm Bundy came in the trailer briefly, and the President greeted them and then suggested they leave and find a way to get him into Karachi without the press finding out prior to arrival.	
5:26a					<i>w/ General Momyer</i> The President to his car and departed trailer in which he had spent the night. The President had been quartered in a series of trailers -- his trailer was number one. The trailer had two bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen. The President's large double bed filled one of the small bedrooms.	
5:29a					Arrive hanger speech site -- in the dark of early morn The President went immediately to the stage where he decorated Capt. William Crieger, 355th TFW -- Silver Star Capt. Donald F. Miles, 432nd TRW, --Silver Star Major Myron L. Savage, 355th TFW, --Distinguished Flying Cross (10LC) Major Wintford L. Bazzell, 388th TFW, -- Distinguished Flying Cross Major James R. Bassett, 388th TFW, Distinguished Flying Cross Mjor Lloyd W. Boothby, 8th TFW -- Distinguished Flying Cross 1st Lt. John C. Putnam, 355th TFW -- Distinguished Flying Cross 1st Lt. George H. McKinney, Jr., 8th TFW -- Distinguished Cross and made REMARKS	
5:41a					Depart speech site	
5:43a					On the airplane in Presidential compartment w/ General William W. Momyer, Depty Cdr. for Air Ops & Cdr 7th AF	

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	5:53a				Takeoff from Korat RTAFB, Thailand During this flight, the President was briefed by General Momyer -- who came aboard prepared w/ charts and pointer to discuss his activities in the DMZ.	
	5:54a				BREAKFAST	
	5:55a				Walt W. rostow joined	
					Aboard AF One 86970 from Korat, RTAFB, were the following: The President Mr. W. Marvin Watson, Special Asst to the President Mr. George Christian, Press Secretary Mr. Walt Rostow, Sp Asst to the President Mr. James Jones, Presidential Asst Dr. George Burkley, President's personal physician Col. James U. Cross, Armed Forces Aide to the President Mr. Rufus Youngblood, Deputy Director, US Secret Service Mr. Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America Mr. C. W. Englehard Mrs. C. W. Englehard Mr. Clinton Hill, SAIC, US Secret Service Miss Marie Fehmer, Presidential Secretary Mrs. Mary Beck, Presidential Secretary Mrs. Nell Yates, Secretary Miss Evelyn Ferguson, Press Office Secretary LCdr. Tom Atkins, White House Photographer Mr. Yoichi Okamoto, White House Photographer Miss Ruby Nivens, Secretary Chief Thomas Mills, corpsman MSgt. Paul Glynn, Presidential valet M. Sgt. Marshall K. Gaddis, Presidential valet	

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					Sgt. Jack Cliff, baggage handler	
					SD 1 Cecilio C. [redacted] Pontanilla, Jr., steward	
					Mr. Charles Maguire, Presidential Assistant	
					Mr. Horace Busby	
					Hon. Harry McPherson, Special Counsel to the President	
					General Momyer	
	6:05am				The President to the rear of the plane talking with [redacted] Harry McPherson and inviting him to join	
	6:10a				Back to the Presidential compartment	
					Marvin Watson	
					Walt Rostow	
					Gen. <i>Wm</i> Momyer	
					Jack Valenti	
					Harry McPherson	
					Horace Busby	
					George Christian	
					Mr. Englehard	
					Charles Maguire	
					The President came to the back of the plane from time to time to speak privately with Walt Rostow, then the two would return to the compartment with the rest of the gentlemen.	
					For this flight, there were two escort planes flying off each wing tip. Other support and escort planes were at hand, but not in evidence.	

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Day Saturday

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expendi- ture Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	8:43				AF One 86970 touched down, Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of Viet Nam	
	8:43a				VietNam time	
	This is the President's second visit to Cam Ranh Bay.				The President was met by <i>Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky</i> <i>General William Westmoreland</i> <i>Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker</i>	
					and departed by motorcade	
	9:18	9:22			Remarks to Senior Unit Commanders	

Had Cornell arranged

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	9:31a				The President and Gen. Westmoreland led a group of dignitaries to the stage. "Hail to the Chief" was played.	
					General Westmoreland escorted the President in REVIEW of the TROOPS in an open jeep.	
					Returned to the stage.	
					National anthem of VietNam	
					U. S. National Anthem	
					The President then decorated a large number of AirForce, Army, Marine, and Navy enlisted men and officers.	
					DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS:	
					Spec 4 Paul D. Charles, USA	
					Lt. Col. Ralph Puckett, Jr., USA	
					1 st Lt. Leon Mack Wessel, Jr. USA	
					Sgt. William C. Thomas, USA	
					NAVY CROSS:	
					LCdr. Francis Eugene Rh Rhodes, USN	
					Gunnery Sgt. John Sherman Green, USMC	
					Gy Sgt. Leroy Nick Powlson, USMC	
					AIR FORCE CROSS:	
					Col. Robert M. White, USAF	
					SILVER STAR:	
					Capt. Paul Nagle Gray, USN	
					Lt. (jg), Samuel Samuel Allen Mies, USN	
					Engineman 3d Class Michael Lee Meeks, USN	
					Capt. Jerald W. Ellington, USAF	

The President began his day at (Place) Korat RTAFB, Thailand

Day Saturday

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					Then Gen. Westmoreland said at the request of the Commander-in-Chief, would the troops fall out and come to the base of the stage beneath the President. As the troops paused uncertainly, the President rose and raised his arms in a beckoning motion. The troops then ran and squeezed in the area around the stage. General Westmoreland then told them to remove their head covers.	
	9:50	9:58a			REMARKS by the President.	
					Upon finishing his remarks, the President paused a moment, then asked the troops gathered to indulge him while he paid tribute to their leaders. The President awarded:	
					General William Westmoreland -- an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal he already earned. (Cdr US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam)	
					General Cretghton Abrams, (Deputy Cdr. US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam)	
					Lt. General Bruce Palmer, Jr. (Deputy CG, US Army, Vietnam)	
					General William Momyer, USAF, (Deputy Cdr for Air Ops USMACV, Cdr 7th AF)	
					Lt. General Robert Cushman, USMC, (CG III Marine Amphibious Force, USMACV)	
					Vice Admiral Kenneth Vieth, (Commander US Naval Forces, Vietnam)	
					Vice Admiral "Bush" Bringle (William F.), Commander 7th Fleet	
					The President then presented civilian awards to:	
					Hon. Ellsworth Bunker, Amb to VietNam -- his second Medal of Freedom	
					Hon. Eugene Locke, Depty Amb (not present) -- Medal of Freedom	
					Hon. Robert Komer Medal of Freedom for his work in pacification	
					Following these awards the troops gave three cheers for the President.	
					General Westmoreland on behalf of all troops in VietNam wished the President and the First Lady a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, thanked the President for coming, and wished him God speed.	

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	10:25am				AF One 86970 departed Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of VietNam with the following aboard: The President and all on the flight from Korat to Cam Ranh with the deletion of General Momyer and the addition to the manifest at Cam Ranh of Mr. William Bundy.	
					The President was in his compartment with Mr. & Mrs. Charles Englehard Harry McPherson Jack Valenti Marvin Watson	
	11:41	11:45a		t	Mrs. Johnson in Washington	
					The President visited with the Englehards' -- looked at the opal cufflinks he had purchased in Australia for Pat and Chuck -- and conferred with various advisers between receiving cables.	
	12:20	12:30pm			The President rode his exercise machine -- open opening the door so all aboard could see that he was exercising.	
	1:00p				LUNCH -- soup, sandwiches, ice cream In the compartment with the President were Mr. & Mrs. Englehard mf, mb and Jack Valenti and Walt Rostow and Marvin Watson -- all in and out The President was concerned with a report from Tom Johnson on press attitudes saying they were all tired, the trip was turning turning into a carnival, the President was deliberately trying to mislead the press, etc.	

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	Change to Pakistan Time:					
	2:00	3:24p			AF One on ground at Karachi, Pakistan	
					The President met with President Ayub in the terminal during this refueling stop. Their discussion covered both bilateral matters and issues of common concern on the world scene. President Ayub outlined the rapid progress being made in agricultural as well as industrial development in Pakistan. President Johnson congratulated President Ayub on its continuing progress and especially for the success of Pakistan in introducing new wheat strains, expanding human consumption of maize, and expanding both irrigation and chemical fertilizer application. He assured President Ayub of the continued support of the U. S. for Pakistani economic development, including food aid in meeting what both Presidents hope and believe will be a diminishing food deficit. Both Presidents expressed gratification at the inauguration of the Mangla Dam and the prospects for other such projects. The two Presidents then reviewed the world situation with special and emphasis on the possibilities of moving towards peace in VietNam. President Johnson conveyed his impressions from discussions earlier that day in Vietnam and both Presidents shared their regret that progress towards peace had not yet been achieved. taken from Press Release of Joint Statement.	
	3:20p				The President back to the aircraft	
	3:22p				Takeoff from Karachi	
	3:30p	5:40p			PRESS POOL to the Presidential compartment.	

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					Aboard AF One 86970 from Karachi, Pakistan, were the following:	
					The President	
					Mr. W. Marvin Watson, Sp Asst to the President	
					Mr. George Christian, Press Secretary	
					Mr. Walt Rostow, Sp Asst to the President	
					Mr. James Jones, Presidential Asst	
					Dr. George Burkley, President's Personal Physician	
					Col. James U. Cross, Armed Forces Aide to the President	
					Mr. Rufus Youngblood, Deputy Director, US Secret Service	
					Mr. Jack Valenti, Pres., Motion Picture Assoc. of America	
					Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Englehard, guests of the President	
					Mr. Clinton Hill, SAIC, US Secret Service	
					Mrs. Nell Yates, Secretary	
					Miss Marie Fehmer, Presidential Secretary	
					Mrs. Mary Beck, Presidential Secretary	
					Miss Evelyn Ferguson, Press Office Secretary	
					LCdr Tom Atkins, White House Photographer	
					Mr. Yoichi Okamoto, White House Photographer	
					Miss Ruby Lois Nivens, Secretary	
					Chief Thomas Mills, corpsman	
					M Sgt Paul Glynn, Presidential valet	
					M Sgt. Marshall K. Gaddis, Presidential Valet	
					Sgt. Jack Cliff, baggage handler	
					SD 1 Cecilio C. Pontanilla, Jr., steward	
					Mr. Charles Maguire, Presidential Assistant	
					Hon. Harry McPherson, Special Counsel to the President	
					Hon. Horace Busby	
					PRESS POOL:	
					Mr. Hugh Sidey, Time-Life	
					Mr. Frank Cormier, AP	
					Mr. Merriman Smith, UPI	
					Mr. Frank Reynolds, ABC	

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	7:12p				The President departed Campino Airport by helicopter w/ Ambassador G. Frederick Reinhardt, American Amb to Italy Italian Protocol Officer Jack Valenti Rufus Youngblood	
	7:25p	8:23p			<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Porziana</i></p> Arrive Porciano Villa -- to meet with President Saragat <i>Prime minister Aldo Moro</i> <i>Foreign Minister Amintore Fanfani</i>	
	8:23p				<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Porziana</i></p> The President departed Porciano Villa by helicopter	

Mr. Rostow dictating notes n

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	8:33p				<p>The President 's helicopter landed at the Vatican for meeting with Pope Paul VI</p> <p>The President was greeted by Archbishop <u>Benelli (Substitute Secy of State)</u> and Msgr. Paul A. Marcinkus and Count Galeassi, Vatican Administrator</p> <p>--automobile and motorcade to the private apartments of the Pope -- Cortile San Damaso</p> <p>Elevator to second floor - and through Rapex Papal antechambers. In one large room, American student seminarians were gathered -- they cheered, and all had instamatic cameras.</p> <p>Meeting - private - w/ Pope Paul VI (JV took notes)</p> <p>After his meeting w/ the Pope, the President had other members of his party brought into the library - Mr and Mrs. Charles Engelhard, Dr. Burkley, Charles Magukre, Jim Jones, mf</p> <p>Gift Exchange - Pope gave the President a 15th century painting -- President gave him an 8 inch bust.</p>	
	10:22p				The President departed the Vatican by helicopter	

We arrived Ciampino Airport, Rome and went aboard the helicopter. Accompanying the President were Ambassador Reinhardt, Walt Rostow, Ambassador Corrias, Jack Valenti, and Rufus Youngblood.

We arrived at Castel Porziano landing field -- at 7:20p

We drove to the Villa, arriving at 7:25p

The President rode in the car for this five minutes with Ambassador Corrias, Rufe Youngblood, and Jack Valenti.

He was greeted on the steps of the villa by President Saragat and his daughter and her two children, and Prime Minister Moro and Mr. Fanfani.

We went to the second floor of the villa to a large meeting room and sat at a green felt covered table. The President sat across the table from Saragat. Reinhardt and Jack Valenti sat to the President's right and Walt Rostow to his left. On Saragat's right was Moro, and Fanfani on his left. Interpreter sat behind Saragat. The meeting began at 7:30p and ended at 8:17p --

to the landing strip for helicopter ride to the Vatican arriving at 8:40p in the Vatican Garden.

We drove in a car from the Garden, accompanied by a representative of the Pope. In three minutes we were at the steps of the Pope's private apartments. We were met there by Marcinkus. We walked through a large assembly room where 130 young American priests studying in Rome gave the President a warm ovation as he came through. Then we were ushered into the private office of the Pope with only Jack Valenti accompanying the President inside the office. The President sat at the Pope's desk, with Jack Valenti to his right. Sitting across from him was the Pope and to the Pope's right was Cardinal Cicognani, Secy of State and Archbishop Corelli.

Meeting lasted from 8:50p-10:17p (Jack Valenti's notes of discussion to DT)

Midway in the meeting, the President asked Jack Valenti to bring in Walt Rostow who came and sat at the President's left.

After the meeting, the President had other members of his party brought in, and the photographers recorded the presentation to the Pope and the gift exchange.

Jack Valenti/mf

The President received a handwritten letter from King Constantine of Greece who is in exile in Rome while he was in Rome---delivered via the 1st Secretary of the Am Embassy to Mr. Rostow who handed it unopened to the President .
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	10:40p				The President returned to AF One and talked in his compartment with George Christian	
		11:00p				
	11:05p				AF One 86970 airborne for the Azores-- same manifest: drop Mr. Christian	
					The President stayed in his cabin talking with Mr. & Mrs. Charles Englehard Walt Rostow Harry McPherson Jack Valenti Horace Busby Marvin Wateron about his experiences in Rome. He thought the trip very successful, especially to with the Pope.	
					DINNER -- soup, king crab, steak	
	2:00am				The President to bed for a NAP	
	1:35a	Azores Time			AF One 86970 landed, the Azores, Portugal -- US AF Base Loges AFB	
	2:14	2:44p			The President awakened soon after landing, and discovered everyone gone to the base post exchange. so, the President joined at the exchange, buying gifts to take his family. <i>President driven by USAF car - Sgt Lee driving</i>	
	2:55am				AF One departed the Azores same manifest; add Mr. William Bundy	