

PHONE CALL
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By	MMK NLDDE Date 12/12/13

President called Deputy Secretary of Defense Robertson, 4:32.

The President -- I'm calling about mutual disarmament, say in return for thorough inspection system, including open skies -- this looks so far in offing we are foolish not to make a modest proposal.

I don't see how we can do it. I'm amazed. I said -- Are you going to be at the dinner? I'd like to talk to you some more about it. Part of our folks are talking that way and General Whiteley who is over with Raddy said.....



The President: Actually, this is in response to a message the State Department has from (I wrote S. L. - I think). We're going to get stymied on dead center. I don't think there's a chance in hell we'll get taken up on this thing. Above all things, this adequate inspection system -- in return for that it looks as though we could just give up a hell of a lot. I can't imagine anything that would give us a greater sigh of relief than if we knew what was going on in that nation. They can't say we'll use China to produce our troops... (or) we're feeding them up with weapons. The most you could be risking is what the Chinese could reach. They're certainly not going to get out in the ocean. I think we're taking too much counsel with our fears... than to give State Department a positive answer that we could advance with our proposal.

Robertson: Is it possible they would come down from four and a half to two and a half? We'd come down from 4.8 to two and a half. If we went that route they would say we're giving up our strongest position in coming from 4 to two and a half... Your big stick is atomic weapons.

President: They claim they're as strong as we are in atomic weapons. I'm sure it's a fair risk. I was going through this with the Chief of Staff today. After all, we're putting 40 tons into peaceful uses.

Robertson: We've got it.

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President: We can't outguess what they're going to do. Each step has to be carefully considered. How do we stand against the world as honest exponents of disarmament? If you see any way out of that, talk with Raddy and tell Foster.

Robertson: Would you consider a figure, for example, of 2.6 as being useful instead of 2.5?

President: As a matter of fact, we were close to 3. We were coming down to _____ and they were to come down to 2-1/2. 2.5 is a round figure. Foster would postulate that figure and see what kind of arms do they have. He said we postulate 2+1/2 for each one. I think anything would be helpful, but I do think we would look sort of squeegee. Call Foster and talk with him. I'm concerned in making a positive offer and if we don't. . . . we're losing our grip a little if we don't do something.

Robertson: Mr. Dulles just raised the point -- the suggestions we made on the letter. We were in communication on that phase. If we kept the letter on the basis. . . . if this is a proven inspection system, our fellows get much less deeply concerned.

President: That all is part of it.

Robertson: It was pretty loose on whether we really found out it was a workable one. With this clandestine angle, we're leery. I'll get in touch with Mr. Dulles.

