



FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1954 (Cont'd)

2. We also discussed the Army-McCarthy hearings and McClellan's threat to subpoena White House staff members and bring them before the Committee. The President said that he would not stand for this for one minute. He explained that he looked upon his staff members as confidential advisors and that the Congress had absolutely no right to ask them to testify in any way, shape or form about the advice that they were giving to him at any time on any subject -- "If they want to make a test of this principle, I'll fight them tooth and nail and up and down the country. It is a matter of principle with me and I will never permit it" -- The President reiterated his belief that Stevens was dead right by refusing to permit the hearings to go into closed sessions and said that he would once again tell all members of the staff to keep out of this controversy, to have nothing to say on it, and to let my office, and my office alone, be the spokesman on all questions dealing with McCarthy.

3. Indo-China --- The President gave me a rundown on the Indo-China situation which is deteriorating rapidly. The French attached so much importance to Dien Bien Phu that its fall has had a terrific psychological effect, not only in France but even in Indo-China among their fighting troops. It is possible that Viet-minh will take all the delta within a short while. The British are still opposed to any collective action while Geneva is going on and without Britain it would be difficult to carry out the collective action idea -- The British unfortunately are trying to save Hong Kong and Malaya and are closing their eyes to the fact that if Indo-China goes, they are next on the list without much of a prayer to do anything about it.

We had a very delightful game, and the President seemed to enjoy it -- I certainly did.

Cabinet meeting in the morning which I attended only in part.

The question of the subpoena of White House personnel was also raised, and the President stated his position. Dulles gave a summary of Indo-China and the question of foreign trade -- Ike - "There is a phrase that a man is known by the friends he keeps. The other side of the coin is that a man is known by the enemies he makes. I read the last speech of Senator McCarthy. He said in that that we should have nothing to do with any nation that trades with the Reds. If he's against that, I'm for it." Stassen pointed out that a lot of the talk on foreign trade dealt only with the British but that McCarthy, with a large Scandanavian population in his state, wouldn't dare make an attack against the Scandanavian countries dealing with the Reds.