

Encl (13)

See 2905
Oct 1 1969

Dear Larry,

As I mentioned during our telephone conversation on the twenty-second, I am forwarding herewith a copy of the proposed text for our initial release on the Seapower Symposium. Also included are a set of hypothetical questions and the proposed answers.

In accordance with the general guidelines agreed to in my July meeting with Champ Blouin, the public affairs effort will be kept on a local, low key level. What I have in mind is a three-phase effort: the initial release about one week prior to the Symposium, then "reaction" releases keyed to specific inquiries and finally, a follow-up release after the Symposium concludes.

I would appreciate your comments and suggestions, either specifically or on a general vein, regarding our public affairs approach to the Symposium.

Sincerely,

Rear Admiral Lawrence R. Geis, U. S. Navy
Chief of Information (NAVOP-007)
Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Enclosure:

- (1) Proposed Initial Release
- (2) List of questions and proposed answers

WRITTEN BY: CAPT TERRY (5:jlh) 26 Sept 1969

Proposed Initial Release

NEWPORT, R.I.--Over 70 top naval leaders from about 40 maritime nations throughout the world have been invited to participate November 17 thru 20, with U. S. representatives, in a four-day Naval War College sponsored Seapower Symposium.

The symposium is envisioned as an academic forum whereby naval leaders can examine and discuss the elements and implications of the rapidly changing maritime picture.

The scope of the forum includes a review of the relative growth, trends and changes in maritime strength and the implications for all nations; a consideration of international maritime economic interdependence and evolving concepts of freedom of the sea; a discussion of the current and future roles of naval forces in a peacetime environment; and an examination of maritime concepts for the future.

The symposium will convene with welcoming remarks by the President, Naval War College, Vice Admiral Richard G. Colbert, USN, followed by the keynote address which will be delivered by (name and title). Subsequent addresses on freedom of the seas and the role of naval forces by recognized naval authorities will be given on the mornings of the second and third days.

Discussion periods will be provided on each day in order to encourage a free exchange of ideas and viewpoints. It is expected that there will be about six seminar discussion groups arranged on a geographic, regional basis. Group assignments will permit those nations with more than one participant to attend more than one seminar at the same time.

On the afternoon of the third and fourth days, there will be open forums in plenary session. Relying upon maximum participation from the floor as well as from panels made up of the attendees themselves, the plenary sessions also will provide a means for the presentation of individual views before all participants.

The afternoon of the fourth day will be devoted to the summarization and the concluding remarks.

Countries invited to send their naval leaders to participate in this symposium include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, Republic of China, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, and Finland.

Also France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Norway.

And, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, and South Vietnam.

It is hoped that the symposium will stimulate fresh insights and new assessments of the changing maritime scene, and will produce understanding and attitudes leading to ever-increasing cooperation among maritime nations.

List of Questions and Proposed Answers

1. Will this symposium be open to the world press? Or will it be a classified exercise?

A. Although the conference is not classified, the symposium will be conducted under academic privilege in order to encourage the fullest participation and exchange of ideas. The press will not be invited to working sessions.

2. What facilities will be available to accommodate the working press?

A. Arrangements will be made by the War College Public Affairs office to accommodate specific media desires or the needs of any participant who wishes to be interviewed.

3. Can reporters sit in on the individual sessions and can the speakers as well as the participants be quoted? Will the participants and speakers be available for individual interviews?

A. Reporters cannot attend individual sessions and the sessions are off the record as a general rule. However, where invited speakers wish to distribute their remarks, the press will be notified, and the College Public Affairs Office will make distribution. Interviews will be granted at the discretion of the interviewee.

4. Is this not in reality a war-planning session?

A. No, it is nothing resembling a war planning session. It is a professional forum for followers of the sea; in this case, naval leaders who wish to discuss the elements and implications of today's changing maritime picture. It should be emphasized that this symposium is no different in purpose from other of the many international professional conferences on subjects such as medicine, law, science, and so forth. The goals are increased mutual understanding and awareness of what is taking place in the maritime world.

5. In view of the general world trend toward restrictive military budgets, is this symposium an effort to think up new techniques and roles to justify large standing naval forces?

A. No, not at all. The question is misdirected. This is a conference designed to study what's happening in seapower and in maritime affairs and what the future looks like for nations concerned with the sea.

6. How much does this symposium cost, and who is paying for it? Is this a junket or is this designed for serious work?

A. This symposium is supported by the United States Navy and \$125,000 has been budgeted for conference costs. Obviously, when world recognized leaders and experts gather, in this case naval leaders, although it might well be biologists or marine scientists, they gather to talk professionally. They come only by juggling their busy personal schedules.

7. Who drew up the list of invitees? Why are some nations on the list and others not? For example UAR, USSR, Israel.

A. The President of the Naval War College, with the advice of the Chief of Naval Operations, drew up the list. The list, very simply, was based upon all those countries who have participated and are participating in the senior foreign naval officers course here at the Naval War College.

8. Which nations have rejected invitations? Why?

A. We do not consider it proper to discuss the whys and wherefores of acceptance or regret. We cannot presuppose on other nations' reasons.

9. Are families invited? If so, who pays?

A. Families were not officially invited. However, should a participant bring his family he does so at his own decision and expense.

10. Is travel via commercial air or U. S. military aircraft? Is it economy or first class?

A. Funds are made available for commercial air travel. A participant may travel by first class air if he desires. Some of the nations have provided for their own attendees' travel expenses.

11. Does the State Department, and White House know of and approve of this world gathering?

A. The State Department, as the proper channel for coordination at the national level of such a conference, is fully apprised. If State feels that the White House should be informed, we presume that they will do so.

12. Why is this symposium seemingly confined to active duty naval officers? Is this symposium not of concern to qualified civilian experts? For example, Senator Pell or the Maritime Administration.

A. This conference was designed as a gathering limited in this instance to professional naval officers. We are obviously aware that those interested and competent in maritime affairs include many not in the uniformed services, but for our purposes, and given the facilities at hand, we have restricted the symposium to naval officers.

13. If this is simply a professional bull-session, how can one justify its costs?

A. It is difficult to imagine senior naval officers of the world leaving their busy offices to gather in Newport for a "bull-session."

14. How many U. S. naval officers will be involved? Why so many? Are we trying to push a U.S. line? Is this the real reason for the symposium?

A. There will be approximately ten U. S. Navy officers. This is a good working ratio considering the worldwide role and responsibilities of the U. S. Navy. There is no U.S. line on future concepts of maritime affairs and as you realize, our foreign policy dictates in effect, effective U. S. Navy policies. We are here to talk shop in the academic, intellectual sense.

15. Do you expect any difficulty or confrontations between neutral and treaty-allied nations, e.g. Sweden and South Vietnam?

A. No. We are dealing with professionals and with highly trained and civilized representatives of sovereign nations. However, we do expect and encourage full discussions and agreements and disagreements as they occur. We come together as professional equals. There is no effort to sway or control. It wouldn't work.

16. What possibly can such small maritime powers as Mexico, Iran, Ethiopia contribute to this symposium? Isn't this slightly ridiculous?

A. Not at all. You do these nations a disservice. Seapower and maritime concerns relate not solely to size, but to importance of coastlines and the nature of the seas. The maritime interests and problems of small nations are very similar and closely mixed with those of large nations.

17. What will be the language of the symposium?

A. English is the official language of the symposium.

18. Will there be an open summary report of the symposium available to the press and public?

A. It is our expectation that there will be a summary conference report available following the symposium. Copies will be available to interested parties.

19. Is there any objection to radio and TV coverage of distinguished arrivals at the College?

A. No, no objections, but we do expect to give consideration to the desires of the participants.

20. Does the presence of France imply a rejection of de Gaulle's anti U.S. and NATO policies.

A. It would be most improper to answer that question. This is none of the Navy's business.

21. Why do you feel it necessary to hold a symposium? What makes "the changing scene" so ripe for discussion?

A. As you may recall, this is not the first symposium on problems of the sea. Last year the American Assembly held a conference at Arden House on "Uses of the Seas." We are following in that tradition. And in our view the time is ripe, for never has there been such rapid change and movement in technology, ocean sciences, port, coast and seabed problems, marine farming, merchant fleets and naval forces for peace. These are some of the questions we want to explore with our colleagues.

22. Is this symposium really designed to develop responses to the increased Soviet Maritime Threat?

A. No, the symposium is not designed to treat the Soviet maritime expansion as the agenda indicates, but it's equally obvious that no group of naval officers meeting for a week will ignore the matter of Soviet seapower.

23. You speak of "regional cooperation." Does this imply efforts to contain Communist sea power?

A. No, it implies getting the maximum multi-national cooperation on solving maritime problems (such as disaster rescue operations and peacekeeping) at the least cost and with maximum good will.

24. What is the role, if there is one, of navies in peacetime?

A. Short of giving you a lecture, the role of navies in peacetime has in our opinion been amply demonstrated in the past 20 years or more. The 7th Fleet, the 6th Fleet, the entire gamut of good will to sea lift of food and assistance to refugees has more than proved the value of naval showing of the flag in peacetime.

25. What is the level of indicated participation from other nations? The U. S. Chief of Naval Operations is to be present. Will other CNO's be present?

A. The American CNO will be present as a participant. Other CNO's will be present as their schedules permit. A listing of acceptances from other CNO's is available.

26. Will outside observers be present? Will UN representatives be welcome?

A. In keeping with the traditional policy of the Naval War College of privileged lectures, seminars and discussions, no outside observers or auditors will be present. We are flattered at the suggestion of UN representation but this would really go beyond our jurisdiction and is not within our invitational guidelines.

27. Your brochure describes a foreign officers' course as part of the War College. Is this symposium to be interpreted as an alumni gathering of former students?

A. No, of course not. It may be of interest to note that approximately one-third of the foreign graduates of the Naval War College have attained flag rank, 104 to be exact, and of this group 20 have risen to become chiefs of their national naval forces. By all odds, obviously, some former students will be here representing their navies.

28. How do you plan on handling representatives from Greece and Turkey, India and Pakistan, Peru and U. S.?

A. All representatives are here on an equal basis. We all wear navy uniforms and have common bonds to the sea. Our experience with the foreign officers resident course shows this to be no problem.

29. Will the symposium discuss the problem of the 200 mile territorial limit, and the seizure of American fishing boats?

A. There will be an address which will discuss concepts of freedom of the seas, with specific reference to rights of passage, establishment of territorial waters, and rights of innocent passage by naval vessels. The reference to "seizure of American fishing boats" is a diplomatic and legal issue presently under discussion and thus inappropriate for us to comment on publicly.

30. Was any thought given to inviting a representative of Cuba?

No, the U.S. does not have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

31. What is the future role of navies in counterinsurgency?

A. That's a large order and short once again of a lecture. Navies do have roles in counterinsurgencies, and if you are interested in specifics we can put you in contact with the appropriate U. S. Navy officials.

32. Doesn't the U. S., in reality, financially support most of these "play" navies, some of which will have representatives present?

A. We object to the use of the derogatory phrase "play navies." The U. S. does maintain a military assistance program and in certain countries there are provisions for training and material support for local navies. However, this is a foreign policy question and we refer you to either the State Department or the Department of Defense for fuller information.

33. Have leading foreign or civilian authorities been invited to speak?

A. The three major addresses will be given by U. S. Navy officers: _____, Admiral Arleigh Burke, and Admiral Ephraim P. Holmes. No civilian authorities have been invited to speak. The participants, foreign and U. S. naval officers, will be encouraged to express freely their views during group discussions and in full plenary sessions.

34. Is the heavy U. S. representation designed to squelch differing or hostile foreign views?

A. No. As we pointed out earlier, we will encourage full exchange, whether it's in agreement or disagreement. This is an academic institution which prides itself on unfettered discussion without attribution.

35. How do you hope to gain a consensus when you have present such diverse views as those of Finland and Vietnam?

A. We neither seek nor foster the idea that we must come out of this symposium with a consensus. What we want to achieve is an openness of expression so that the problem areas may be fully explored.

36. Who is the host for this gathering? SecNav, CNO or the President, Naval War College? If CNO or SecNav is the host why isn't the symposium held in the Washington area.

A. The President of the Naval War College is the host as appropriate to the mission of the War College which prides itself in being in the vanguard of maritime thinking.

37. Couldn't the same objective be accomplished through the aegis of our various Mutual Security Agreements - NATO, SEATO, Centro and ANZUS?

A. This is an academic and informal professional gathering on a service college campus. It was felt that this was the best environment to accomplish the symposium's purpose.

Please destroy 18 Sep
Memo - same subj -
& use 19 Sep Memo.
(#2 is changed.)

19 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Chief of Staff

Subj: Releases on Seapower Symposium

1. Larry Geis called on the 17th to discuss with you the public affairs aspects of the Seapower Symposium. He was apparently not aware of the discussions you had had with Champ Blouin on this subject, nor was I. He feels that he must make a recommendation to the CNO in the reasonably near future on how this should be handled. Therefore, he requests that you call on your return and tell him what you would like. I would like to have a preliminary discussion with you, Captain Ulbricht and Lieutenant Commander DeMarco.

2. He also stated that he had liked the PAO participation in the Public Diplomacy course last year. He wondered why it was not in the schedule for this year. I did not know at the time. However, later found that it was a casualty to the modification of the public affairs part of the course to get greater emphasis on civilian media representation. However, the benefits of having an experienced PAO who might have been the action officer on stories such as the Palomares bomb or the SCORPION loss, to discuss his problem with our students could be beneficial. Captain Fonvielle is modifying his schedule to reinject this participation in the form of a panel discussion. I would appreciate your advising Larry of this fact.

Very respectfully,

F.G. BENNETT

Copy to:
2, 5, 003



NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
02840

18 July 1969

MEMORANDUM

From: CAPT R. F. Delaney, USNR
To: CAPT F. W. Ulbricht, USN

Subj: Comments on Seapower Symposium

1. I have read with great interest the 27 June 1969 position paper on the proposed War College Seapower Symposium set for 17-20 November 1969.
2. My first reaction is of the considerable public value of such an undertaking. It makes sense, and it makes for good image. It can, in my view, be prudently and constructively publicized.
3. For whatever use it might be, I have taken the liberty of interlineating my editorial suggestions. I want to emphasize that these suggestions are made from the point of view of the public affairs aspects: those items or concepts that would make good background materials.
4. In general, a strong program is presented: one which can with pride be presented to the public through selected media contacts.
5. I do feel you are on the strongest possible ground in emphasizing the academic context of the Symposium. This protects its integrity and its freedom of wide-ranging discussion. In this connection one hopes that the general Symposium will be unclassified both for press purposes as well as conference report purposes.
6. I personally would prefer that the conference be entitled "Maritime Symposium" rather than "Seapower" for in point of fact the agenda goes far beyond seapower to the roots of future maritime concepts. Again, "maritime" is an "in" word and "seapower" connotes in the popular mind a military connotation exclusive of other meanings.
7. The War College should, in my opinion, retain conceptual and operational control. To do otherwise might invite undue anxiety in and interference from State and DOD. This is a perfectly proper NWC intellectual function.
8. I would also suggest that the Symposium consider as an additional (but not controlling) dimension the role of peacetime navies in regional development whether it be nation-building,

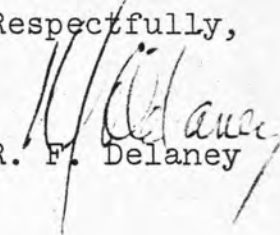
modernization or oceanological research. The trained cadres and in-place resources of navies in stringent peacetime budgetary situations can be offset in part by applying cooperative naval and maritime measures to "peacefare" in the interests of not only the free world but the world community (as for example in sea farming, food, ocean sciences). There is, it seems to me, a psychological advantage to be gained in this area. What more natural force can you think of to lead in this direction than the navies of the world.

9. I would take care to prepare carefully our conceptual definitions of such things as "freedom of the seas." We must avoid the psychological habit of America laying over the world our model of what and how and where. This is a global conference with many points of view. This does not mean we shouldn't sell our position, but it should be done informally and outside the official sessions.

10. As for speakers, I suggest consideration be given to authorities from international agencies (e.g., John Stoessinger of the U.N.), leading legalists (e.g., Leo Gross), and with reference to the role of navies at least one person of dimension who is knowledgeable but not of the U.S. Navy (e.g., E. A. Gullion). In this context, I should also like to suggest that the sessions on "Maritime Concepts for the Future" could prove to be the most intellectually fruitful and profitable publicity-wise of the entire conference. It depends on how you do it.

11. In pressing our own point of view, I repeat in my opinion it must be done socially through well versed catalytic agents. The heavy hand or the personal policy hangup will not do; better left undone. This will require careful orchestration especially if we intend to combine a wee bit of intelligence work and a bit of persuasion. It merits careful attention.

Respectfully,


R. F. Delaney

4. Our concept of the public affairs approach, at this time, is as follows:

a. There will be an initial, local release just prior to the Symposium. This will be coordinated through COMNAV-BASE.

b. Further releases will respond to queries and the desires of the participants themselves. These can be called "reaction releases."

c. There will be a post-Symposium release.

Very respectfully,

F. W. ULBRICHT
Captain, U. S. Navy
Director, Seapower Symposium Project

Capt Terry

NAVAL COMMAND COURSE
NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
02840

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF

Via: Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations

Subj: Seapower Symposium Public Affairs; Background concerning

Ref: (a) PRESNAVWARCOL ltr Ser 2014 of 27 June 1969

Encl: (1) Copy of enclosure (3) to reference (a)
(2) Memorandum for record dated 29 July 1969
(3) Memorandum dated 8 September 1969
(4) Copies of several memoranda

1. By reference (a), which was addressed to CNO, the President outlined the concept of the Symposium sponsorship, described its conceived structure, and posed a series of questions for discussion at OPNAV. Enclosure (1) is a copy of these questions and question number four pertains to public affairs.

2. On 22 July 1969 a meeting was held in OPNAV with VADM Colbert, VADM Blouin (OP-06), and RADM Kinney (BuPers) in attendance. The questions posed by reference (a), plus some additional items, were discussed at that meeting. Enclosure (2) is a Memorandum for Record which summarizes the results of that meeting. Enclosure (2) was provided to the OPNAV Symposium Action Officer in OP-605C. Item number four pertains.

3. More recently, enclosure (3) was issued to some members of the staff and faculty requesting comments and suggestions concerning an initial press release and anticipated press queries with appropriate responses. Enclosure (4) are copies of the responses received to date. These inputs are being considered for modification of enclosure (4) prior to submitting it for approval.