

MM Notes on Visit with HK May 24, 2010

4 p.m.

Kristy →
Chemistry

I arrived at K Associates at 4 pm He came out of office into waiting room and led me back to his office. He sat on my right because as he explained his left ear is better (same problem as with lunch years back). I was on sofa and he was in chair. His assistant brought in two cups of tea--automatically.

I told him about Paul Doty and gave him a sheet of paper on which Paul's telephone numbers were written and encouraged him to call on cell. That Paul would appreciate it. HK asked what PD medical problem was and I said congestive heart failure. HK said the best cardiologist in world was in Boston, Desanctis, but he wasn't available at this time. I said that Paul had been told by one physician that he had only a few weeks to live. Paul telephoned me right after that, very distressed. Subsequently his own cardiologist told him that nothing was that certain but that his condition was deteriorating.

I recently talked with Naill Ferguson and Henry said NF was slow in finishing the biography although HK had high regard for him. I asked him about NF history of Rothschilds and HK said it was good. NF now has a sabbatical I said and now planned to devote full time to HK biography.

HK said it was his policy not to respond to war criminal charges. (How did this subject arise?)

I didn't know what to say. Then I asked if he saw the world as a hierarchy of evils. That he had to make decisions based on the lesser evil. He looked very thoughtful at that and then paused and said he did.

He told me what he had written as undergrad thesis at harvard and then his grad thesis on council of Vienna which he wasn't able to get published by an American house but did get a British publisher that sent 2000 copies to US yet book was not well received. Now it is regarded as important. I had the impression he was telling me he was not appreciated when he was young.

I reminded him of lunch with JG in 2003 or 2004 and still hoped to make some record of his recollections of the events around Nixon decision to end BW. Hoped to have some event. He said he wouldn't step foot on Harvard.

No, I assured him, it should be in NYC and Tom Graham would help arrange it. Which Tom Graham? Your Tom Graham--who recently spoke at Harvard. I spoke with him and he is willing. HK the Tom G with beard? I couldn't recall a beard. HK said he looks like revolutionary. I said he has the same telephone number as you. HK agreed it had to be his TG. I said I would follow through with TG.

I gave him a draft of my note on the toxin decision, including the five page memorandum "US policy on Toxins (NNSM #85)" Fill in exact words here.

He looked at handwritten words at option III and said it looked like his handwriting next to President's signature but said he couldn't be sure.

I asked if the BW decision was related RN's concern with the environment. Not that, HK said, but that the development of BW would be like opening a door that could not be closed. I said it is an entire dimension of mass destruction that once started could be obtained by anyone.

*Abrams
is
annoyed
re Baisak*

About the toxin decision, I explained that the purpose of my note was to ask if the Pres made his decision at Key Biscayne or had already made it earlier. I recounted that Paul Doty had telephoned me saying the previous night you had tried to reach me by phone but I didn't answer because I was at movies and the purpose of your call was to locate a copy of the paper on toxins I had written for you. Paul couldn't find his copy when you asked. According to Paul you called back the same night to say you had found copy and that the Pres had made decision. And that what had impressed Pres was part about presidential credibility. I explained that the reason for my note was to ask if the Pres as it appeared had made the decision at Key Biscayne or if he had already made it beforehand. The reason for asking was that there is a telephone record of a conversation between the President and HK—I read the words—in which the Pres says regarding “the toxin thing” is that “he isn't going to leak it.” And that HK “should act as if we are still working on it.”

I asked HK if it could be that a decision for option 3 had already been made but that he and the President did not want to reveal this prematurely in order for HK not be perceived by Joint Chiefs and DoD as opposing their policy on a military matter. HK said that he could not remember the particular case but that when you are national security advisor or secretary of state you have objectives and you also have the bureaucracy and sometimes it is necessary to take bureaucracy into account in achieving your objectives.

I asked HK what he thought about Obama versus McCain in role of president. HK said that he was very good friend of McCain and that he had reached his peak in 2000. HK said he was deeply concerned about President Obama. Thought he has not adequately connected to American people. He has known ten US presidents and that of all Obama seems the most remote. I mentioned that in his addresses Obama looks to the left and the right but not at the camera.

He said he had to work that night for next day's testimony to Foreign Relations Committee regarding new START treaty. He said that some of his republican friends would not be pleased but that he was going to endorse it.

I said that with Lugar and even Schlesinger supporting it, it could have a good chance. HK said yes but that Schlesinger had given a long list of objections to treaty and ended by saying he supported it. This was not necessarily an effective endorsement.

HK told about his mother Paula who after her stroke was on life support. HK refused to have it removed, against doctors advice. He said if tn hey took support away, he would sue them. She recovered and lived another five years. I talked about my own mother living a long time and showed him her photo at age 100 and that she had been in good health.

I said I had just turned 80 and he said he had also had a birthday that month too.

HK said be sure to come back again and bring your wife. He said this several times.

He walked me to the corridor.