

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1953

3:30 p.m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ARMY SECRETARY STEVENS

Secy Stevens said that he had seen the President this afternoon and brought up, in the course of other problems, the missing POW's. The President expressed such a great interest in the problem that he wanted to alert the Secretary.

The President made the statement that he was not sure that if he had fully appreciated the situation he would have felt it wise to go into the forthcoming conference. Perhaps we should have insisted on their return as a precondition to the conference.

The Secretary said that Robertson has this much in mind, he is going to Korea with Radford, he would wire him to explore the matter. He asked Stevens what evidence we have.

Stevens said that a couple of weeks before Big Switch we had the names of 610 Army people that have just disappeared from the camps. The Air Force has over 300, which is very disproportionate, and which has led them to believe that they may be holding technicians. They are now running the names of the 610 through the AG tabulators to check this idea.

The President asked Stevens to call the State Dept. without mentioning any name, to see that everybody was doing all they could about it. Stevens felt the Secretary would want to know how intensely interested the President had been.

BO'D

* Action