



## “We Made a Little Progress There”

**Date:** 1967-06-25

**Conversation:** WH6706-02-11914-11915-11916

**Participant:** Lyndon B. Johnson

**Participant:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Start Time:** 21:44

**Duration:** 03:58

**Place:** Mansion

SCENE SETTER: Following the close of the Glassboro summit with Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin, President Johnson called former president Dwight D. Eisenhower to brief him on those three days of talks. Johnson highlighted several topics of discussion but emphasized Moscow's concern about the Six-Day War that had erupted earlier that month between Israel and the Arab states.

---

**President Johnson:** I wanted to call you; I waited till he [Alexei Kosygin] had got through with his press conference. [*Snorts.*] He played about the same old broken record in private that he did in public. We tried to get agreement on four or five points. We may have made a little progress on nonproliferation; we're going to have [Dean] Rusk and [Andrei] Gromyko work on it some more tomorrow. We may be able to table agreement, but we're not positive.

It looked like there was some movement on [*snorts*] arms limitation, and on arms shipment, and on disclosure, and on reducing military expenditures, cutting our budget down for nuclear weapons or for offensive or defensive missile systems, et cetera. We both agreed in general principle, but he never would set a time, never would set a place, never would get down to really executing it. It was just largely a conversation—pleasant, no vitriolic stuff, no antagonistic stuff, no bitter stuff. Two or three little, little blows below the belt every now and then; when you'd meet him the same way, why, he would [*snorts*] get back to a normal level.

He's made clear they didn't want any confrontation with the United States, didn't want to fight us, didn't want to go to war. But on the Middle East, just one simple instruction, looked like he couldn't move one inch away from it on anything: there must be complete, absolute, immediate withdrawal of troops, period. Nothing else with it. That that was going to be their resolution; they could pass that in the General Assembly; they wanted us to support it there and in the Security Council and nothing else. And that unless and until that would be done, there's going to be a big, great war, and those people will be fighting for ten years. And that they would have to support the Arab nations, and that he couldn't understand why we'd want to support the Jews—3 million people and there are 100 million Arabs—and I told him that numbers did not determine what was right. We tried to do what was right, regardless of the numbers.

*End of excerpt 1.*

**President Johnson:** But I believe we made a little progress there. I believe we made a little step closer to nonproliferation. I think that he thinks that we're not wild men. I believe I made a good impression on him, from the standpoint of being prudent and being firm, and being determined, and not being a fraid[y]-cat or a bully either.

*End of excerpt 2.*

**President Johnson:** I thought I'd call you and tell you, and I sure appreciate your interest and your support and your help. You've been a tower of strength in every problem concerning your nation, and—

**Dwight D. Eisenhower:** Whenever there's anything in the country, as a matter of fact, that I can do anything, I'll try. [*chuckling*] I'll carry your satchel [*unclear*].

**President Johnson:** There's one thing you can do for me is just be damn sure you get well and get strong and then [*Eisenhower attempts to interject*] let me know, whenever you're ready, and then we'll get our plane ready, and you can take it slow. But I *don't* want you to let yourself get run down and not take care of yourself.

**Eisenhower:** [*speaking under President Johnson*] Oh, no, I won't. I won't. No.

**President Johnson:** You just be careful and—because you got a hell of a lot of propping up to do around here for a long time. [*Laughs.*]

**Eisenhower:** Well, I'll tell you, if we get this—You know, if you could just pass on thinking that you'd gotten these people to do *anything* constructive [*President Johnson chuckles*] and reasonable this would be a [*unclear*]. I've been at it since 1941, when I had my first terrible blow with them.

**President Johnson:** [*chuckling*] You're still at it, and you're going to have to stay at it a little while longer [*Eisenhower laughs*], so just pull up your britches!

**Eisenhower:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. President.

**President Johnson:** Give my love to Mrs. [Mamie G. D.] Eisenhower.

**Eisenhower:** I will. Thank you.

**President Johnson:** Bye.

*End of excerpt 3.*

---

CITATION: Conversation WH6706-02-11914-11915-11916, 25 June 1967, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Draft Transcript, Presidential Recordings Program, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.

This conversation was transcribed by the [Miller Center's Presidential Recordings Program](#) with the generous support of the [National Historical Publications and Records Commission](#).

Full information about this conversation: ["We Made a Little Progress There"](#)