

~~RESTRICTED~~

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Authority E.O. 10501

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: May 4, 1949

SUBJECT: Invitation for President to Appear at the United Nations before Adjournment of Current Session.

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Dr. Herbert V. Evatt, Foreign Minister of Australia
and President of the United Nations General Assembly.
The Chief of Protocol, Mr. Woodward

COPIES TO: S
U
G
S/S-PR
UNA
White House (Mr. Connelly)



*** 1-1400

Dr. Herbert V. Evatt, Foreign Minister of Australia and presiding officer of the United Nations General Assembly, called upon the President at the White House today at 3:30 o'clock.

After a general conversation Dr. Evatt invited the President to come to New York, if at all possible, before the adjournment of the United Nations General Assembly, scheduled for about May 16th, to address the Assembly or, if he preferred, to lay the cornerstone of the new United Nations building. Dr. Evatt said that any visit to New York could be made entirely at the President's convenience.

The President thanked Dr. Evatt and said that he was sorry to have had to cancel his engagement to go to New York earlier to lay the cornerstone, but that it was essential for him to remain in Washington until important legislation had been acted upon by the Congress. The labor bill, the ratification of the Atlantic Treaty, and legislation on military assistance for Europe were three paramount issues which demanded his presence in Washington.

The President asked if the General Assembly would meet again in September in New York and whether he could

lay

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

DECLASSIFIED

-2-

Authority E.O. 10501

lay the cornerstone at that time. Dr. Evatt said that the Assembly would meet in New York in September and that the ceremony could take place then, but that in his opinion it was important for the President to say something to the UN about the UN before it adjourned this Spring. Dr. Evatt was not enthusiastic about the fall date.

As a third alternative, Dr. Evatt suggested that the President make a recording which could be broadcast to the General Assembly at one of its final meetings.

The President said that he appreciated very much Dr. Evatt's courtesy in coming to Washington to call upon him, that he would consult the Secretary of State about the three alternatives proposed and let him know.



S.W.

S/S-PR:SWoodward:lbd

~~RESTRICTED~~