

Notes 123N, Copy 2

Mr. John Martyn

Washington, D.C.

May 21, 1959

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Interview with Mr. John Martyn, administrative assistant to Secretary of the Army, Pentagon, May 21, 1959, by F C Pogue.

(Martyn who has been assistant to 13 secretaries of army since he started with John W. Weeks in 1921 recorded some material for as although I had to draw it out of his by outtalking his three sentences to one. He talked a good bit off the record. He is very cautious and pretty careful with what he says. He dresses immaculately. Has a trace of New England in his voice. A little above medium height; tends to have a little weight).

He asked if Gen Marshall ever talked about Gen MacArthur. I said he didn't make strong personal statements about him. But that you could tell his attitude about Gen MacArthur's views on some matters. He slid he had no evidence, but it was felt in War Dept that MacArthur didn't want Marshall in Washington. MacArthur campaigning to be reappointed as Chief of Staff. May not have wanted Marshall for that reason. View that he had him sent on to Chicago for that reason. This may have been the basis for a Marshall-MacArthur feud. No knowledge of difficulties between MacArthur and Pershing in first war which might have influenced Marshall-MacArthur feeling later.

Says question of Pacific or Europe first was not a matter to be decided by Marshall but by President and Prime Minister. Therefore, no basis for the notion that Marshall was punishing MacArthur by favoring European Theater first.

Never heard Marshall or MacArthur say anything about the other. But there was a feeling. Did not know background of why he went to Illinois.

On the idea of MacArthur giving Marshall a bad rating on his work at Screven or Moultrie, he said the 201 file will certainly show the facts. However, the immediate officer would give the report and not the Chief of Staff.

Has heard that Eisenhower and MacArthur disagreed and that Eisenhower asked for his relief. Says doesn't believe the story that E. speculating in Philippine currency. Doesn't know whether Eisenhower opposed MacArthur on something, but there was feeling on part of MacArthur's staff that Eisenhower becoming too big.

Doesn't know how Eisenhower came to be brought in, but does know that there was a view that he had been picked by Marshall for something. Says Marshall picked him for commands.

Woodring didn't know whether he was going to be kept or not. He was somewhat isolationist. Not big enough for the job. Doesn't know if Gen Marshall had anything to do with selection of Stimson. But can say that he (Martyn) and others were glad when someone more positive was brought in. Doubts if Marshall had anything to do with selection of Stimson but certainly was glad.

Doesn't know who suggested Stimson. Knows that Johnson was active in pushing for the job and that he had gone around Wooding to White House. Johnson had let it be known that he had been promised the job.

Stimson able to write his own ticket; pick his own people; and avoid politics. All his main advisers were Republicans. But there was no politics on their part.

Says he doesn't know whether it had any influence or not--probably didn't--but that he had told Dern of Marshall and spoke to him of the fact that Marshall would be a good man for Chief of staff. Mr. Martyn said he wanted Gen Marshall very much. Had great respect for him because he had worked for Gen Pershing and he (Martyn) was very fond of Gen Pershing.

No doubt that prestige and special position of Stimson kept political pressure off War Department.

Stimson brought in a fine group of people. Left many things to them.