

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

**PARTICIPANTS:** President Gerald R. Ford  
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
 and Assistant to the President for  
 National Security Affairs  
 Lloyd Miller, U. S. Ambassador to Trinidad  
 and Tobago  
 Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
 to the President for National Security Affairs

Eric Eustace Williams, Prime Minister of  
 Trinidad and Tobago  
 George Chambers, Minister of Finance  
 Victor McIntyre, Ambassador to the United States

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday, February 21, 1975  
 2:34 - 3:12 p. m.

**PLACE:** The Oval Office  
 The White House

[The press were admitted briefly to take photographs and then departed.]

The President: I was telling Secretary Kissinger that I was in the Navy in 1942 and we went on a shakedown cruise to Trinidad. We trained there for three weeks. We went ashore one day.

It is nice to have you here. It is nice to have you.

Prime Minister Williams: It is nice of you to invite us. We had to adjust our program somewhat.

The President: As far as I know our relations are good and we have no bilateral problems.

DECLASSIFIED  
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BY MA, NARA, DATE 5/12/04



~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

Prime Minister Williams: Except we never know what you will do with your trade policy.

The President: We were upset too at the trade bill.

Prime Minister Williams: You should adopt our system.

The President: Can you control your parliament?

Prime Minister Williams: Of course, otherwise you are out. But they say it is easier to go to the country than to come back from it.

The President: How many people are there in your legislature?

Prime Minister Williams: 36 in one house and 23 in the other.

Secretary Kissinger: You look like you are in complete control.

Prime Minister Williams: It depends on what you mean. What are you doing on the petro dollars?

Secretary Kissinger: We have our own problems there. We aren't harrassing you, are we?

Prime Minister Williams: No, we don't belong to OPEC.

Secretary Kissinger: But you follow OPEC pricing.

Prime Minister Williams: Yes.

The President: Then how does the trade bill affect you?

Prime Minister Williams: Just the principle of it. We would have to vote with Venezuela if you can't solve it.

I almost met you in Tokyo. I was there just ahead of you.

The President: It was a good trip, substantively, and the weather. The Japanese said the weather was a good omen.

Prime Minister Williams: Then my last one was a bad omen -- it was terrible.



Secretary Kissinger: Are you and the Japanese trading partners?

Prime Minister Williams: No, we are just building it. There are investment possibilities. There may be a steel plant, etc.

General Scowcroft: The Prime Minister has visited China and Indonesia also.

The President: When were you in China?

Prime Minister Williams: Six days ago and six weeks ago. If you go in February, don't go to Shanghai and Canton.

The President: I was there in July. It was hot. Are you establishing trade relations?

Prime Minister Williams: We are beginning. They have a lot of things we want and we think they can use our fertilizer.

The President: Aren't transport prices high?

Prime Minister Williams: We may make a barter arrangement.

The President: Are you self-sufficient in food?

Prime Minister Williams: No. We import, mostly from the United States. Costs are very high. Fortunately we have the money. But for how long? We are against your policy, Dr. Kissinger.

Secretary Kissinger: You are against lower prices?

Prime Minister Williams: No. We are against crude oil prices not connected with other commodities.

Secretary Kissinger: We are prepared to index, but at lower prices.

Prime Minister Williams: What is the price?

Secretary Kissinger: We haven't thought it through.

The President: What is your production?



Prime Minister Williams: 200,000 barrels. But we have new off-shore ports. It will be difficult because of the depth.

Minister Chambers: It is not so bad as the North Sea, where they have 50-foot waves.

Prime Minister Williams: But we occasionally have hurricanes.

The President: Do you have them frequently?

Prime Minister Williams: No, but we did last year.

We found an interesting thing in Indonesia -- a floating fertilizer factory -- two ships, one for ammonia and one for urea.

Secretary Kissinger: Why?

Prime Minister Williams: Apparently because of land space. It attracts us because we have a land problem. I am thinking of having a refinery at sea and a 200-mile limit.

Secretary Kissinger: He thinks big! That would give you a slice of Mexico wouldn't it. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Williams: We are serious about it. It would reduce the heavy infrastructure.

Minister Chambers: But it also gives employment.

Prime Minister Williams: We have only 60 miles by 40, with one million people.

The President: Is it growing?

Prime Minister Williams: No, it is declining. We have a very successful family planning program.

Could we get international fund financing for our off-shore program?

Secretary Kissinger: I see imperialist tendencies. You put a rig out and extend the 200 miles beyond that.

Prime Minister Williams: We will be weighing in at the Law of the Sea Conference. The 200-mile limit is in parliament.



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Pussant

P Does telling K I was in Hong in 4 2. Went on shakedown cruise to Trinidad. We trained there for 3 weeks. Went ashore 1 day.

W We'll have you back. We'll have you. We'll have you & invite you. We had to adjust our program somewhat

P As far as I know our relations are good and we have no bilateral probs.

W Except we have to know what you will do w/ your trade policy.

P We were upset at a trade bill.

W You should adopt our system.

P Can you control your parties?

W Of course, otherwise you are out. But they say it easier to go to a country than to come back from it.

P How many people?

W 36 in one + 23 in other.

K You look like you in complete control.

W Depends what you mean. Petrol, also?

K You have ~~plans~~ we have our own probs then we don't harass you, do we?

W No, we don't belong to OPEC

K But you follow OPEC pricing

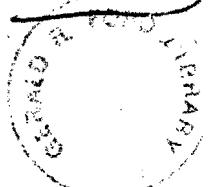
W Yes.

P Then how does Trade Bill affect you

W Just the principle of it. We would have to vote w/ Venezuela if you can't solve it.

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P ~~was~~ It was a good trip, substantially and CWK.



Spectator/Rhodes - Trip to PRC.

Japs + side exp on a good one

W Then my last one was bad even - my truck

K Are you + Japs trading partners

W No, just watching it. Investment possibilities, still plant, etc.

S The PM has visited China + Indonesia also.

P When were you in China

W 6 days ago (?) and 6 weeks ago. If you go <sup>just</sup> ~~just~~ don't go to Shanghai + Canton

P I was there in July. It was hot. Are your export trade relations?

W Beginning. They have a lot of things and want us think they can use our fertilizer.

P Aren't transport prices high?

W Maybe a border encouragement.

P Are you self-suff in food

W ~~Yes~~ No. We're mostly from US. Costs are very high. Fortunately we have money. But for how long. We are against your policy, K.

K You against lower prices?

W No. We're against lower oil prices not connected w/ other conditions.

K We're prepared to index, but at lower prices.

W What price?

K We'd have to think it over

P What is production

W 200,000 bbls. But we have ~~some~~ off shore fields.

It will be big because of depth.

W Not so bad as North Sea, w/ 50 ft cranes.

W But we occasionally have hurricanes.

P Do you have them frequently

W Yes, but did last year.



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Unintentional But also employment.

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P Germany?

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