

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Amb. John Sherman Cooper, Ambassador to GDR  
Secretary Kissinger  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Friday - April 18, 1975  
10:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office



President: Does Lorraine like it?

Cooper: Yes, it is not a place you would want to be permanently, but they made a special effort for us in housing.

President: How do they treat you?

Cooper: You don't see private people. They look at you curiously. People don't talk at restaurants. We can go anywhere we want, but not near the military establishment.

President: What is the population?

Cooper: Seventeen million, with about 1-1/2 [million] communist.

Kissinger: They are the most industrial country in East Europe. Are they below West Germany?

Cooper: Yes, but they put out they are the most industrial state in the world. They have the two parallel lines -- party and government. The party is headed by Honecker.

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CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(3)  
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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
NAC MEMO, 11/18/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES  
BY 14, NARA, DATE 5/19/04

President: Do you deal with the party or the Government?

Cooper: Initially just the Foreign Minister, but now I am getting invitations from the Party. I am the only one in the West who has ever met with Honecker. They say they are very glad with this relationship with the United States. I tell them about NATO and the Western partnership.

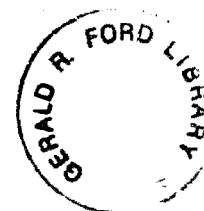
President: What does Honecker say?

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Cooper: The same. They say it is/most important thing in the world for the U.S. and Soviet Union to maintain good relations. They talk of arms control and Vladivostok. Then they discuss our agreement -- consulate, Jewish problems -- and finally get to trade. Honecker says he knows it can't be normal, but we should do the best we can.

West Germany has a big embassy.

Honecker speaks highly of you and of Secretary Kissinger. They never mention Vietnam or economics, except trade. He said you were the biggest moral influence since Eisenhower. We should make the greatest efforts we can with them. A better trade relationship would help.



✓ P/Amb. Cooper / K  
18 Apr 75

P Does Lorraine like it

C Yes, but a place you would want to be permanently, but they made a special effort for us in housing.

P How do they treat you

C You don't see private people. They look at you suspiciously. People don't talk at restaurants, but we can go anywhere we want, but not near mil. estate.

P What is a population

C 17 mil., w/ about 1/4 Croat.

K They are a most industrial country in E Europe. Are they below W Germany

C Yes, but they put out the most industrial state in world. They have a 2 parallel lines - ~~party~~ <sup>party</sup> + govt. Party headed by Horvath.

P Do you deal w/ party or Govt >

C Initially just F.A., but now I get invitations <sup>invitations</sup> from party. Recently one who has been sent w/ Horvath. They say they are glad w/ this relationship w/ US. I tell them about NATO + <sup>partnership</sup> ~~Western~~

P What does Horvath say?

C The same. They say most important thing in world is for US + SC to enter good relations. They talk of arms control + Udal. Then they discuss an agreement - currencies, Jewish probs, + finally get to trade. Horvath says he knows it can't be normal but we should do it best we can.

West Germany has a big embassy.

(missed something)

Horvath speaks highly of you + K. They were

mention UK & economies, esp. trade.  
Even after a Pab. thing he said you were  
biggest moral influence since Ike.  
We should make greatest efforts we can w/  
them. A little trade would help.

