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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Senator Gale W. McGee
Congressman Donald M. Fraser
Congressman John Buchanan
Max Friedersdorf, Counsellor to the President
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Tuesday - November 4, 1975
2:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECTS: Byrd Amendment; IFAD

President: Well, I guess we are supposed to talk about the Byrd Amendment.

Fraser: We made a run at it and appreciate the letter of support by the Administration, but we fell 20 votes short. The problem is the perception of the U.S. failing to live up to its obligation. We are very restrained in Southern Africa and here is one place we have a legal obligation. We would like to discuss how we could mobilize the strength to repeal it.

McGee: The symbolism of this issue up at the UN is the strong issue. The legal case is clear, but when we have this around our necks it is difficult to split the 77.

Fraser: [Hands out list]

McGee: Some specialty steel companies oppose repeal, but Labor has generally swung around.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NWC MEMO, 11/24/99, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES,
BY lma, NARA, DATE 6/14/04

State Review 3/11/04



Buchanan: I don't know whether we can bring it up and win. I don't know whether a maximum effort would have won, but it certainly would take that. I must say that especially DOD but Commerce and Treasury also couldn't have been worse in their testimony had they been opposed. They were less than enthusiastic. That is water over the dam. Now I don't know if it can be done, and if we fail again it would be worse than not trying.

President: I would start from this point of view. It is very hard to turn people around in the same session on the same issue. How about the 37 absentees?

Fraser: They split about even.

President: If you could get the "pro" absentees back and get some negatives to stay away, you might make it.

Buchanan: There are other issues -- like Turkish aid -- which diluted the White House effort. I would like to know we were going to win before we try.

McGee: There is no time bind. The President has a point -- we might be better to wait until next year.

President: Max, run a check on the 37. [Discussion of the names]

Buchanan: Rhodes is strongly against repeal -- as is Michel.

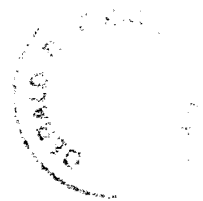
President: Did you catch flak in your district?

Buchanan: I really caught hell -- I still won in '74 but I took a lot of flak. You can make a strong argument on national security if you don't know the facts. We could end up with chrome in very unfriendly hands.

President: There is no backing off of my support. Kissinger will stand fast and Max will check that list.

McGee: The Senate won't start it again. They are afraid of being left by the House again.

Fraser: We could redraft the bill to leave it to the President's discretion on the basis of national interest and security.



President: That might be attractive.

McGee: Some might argue against that on grounds of power of the President.

President: It might be a good idea for the President to have that flexibility.

We'll go ahead on checking it.

Fraser: Can you test this alternate approach? It gives people a chance to shift positions.

President: Let's look into it. Gale, you wanted to mention IFAD.

McGee: There is some snipping away going on in the Senate. I am not sure that we may not have some problems. Just wanted to let you know.

J P / McGuire / Buchanan / Fraser
4 Nov 75

(Small Talk)

P Well, I guess we supposed to talk about Budget
around.

F We made a run out it's approved a letter
for support by administration, but we felt a bit
uncertain about. The point is the perception
of US putting a line up to its delegation. We
are very restrained in Southern Africa
& here is, please we have a legal obligation.
We would like to discuss how we would
understand a strength to ~~conduct it~~ ^{uphold it}.

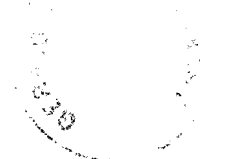
M The symbolism of this issue up at
UN is a strong issue. The legal case
is clear, but when we had this around
our necks it is difficult to split a ??.

F (hands out list)

M Some specially stated comparison of price upend,
but have has greatly varying around

B I don't know whether we can buy it up a
win. I don't know whether a mass effort
would have been, but it certainly would take
that, I must ~~say that~~ ^{say that} say that. Do I but because
+ ^{Fraser} also couldn't have ~~it~~ been worse in terms
had they been opposed. They were less than
enthusiastic. That water over a dam. Now
I don't know if it can be done, & if we fail again
it would be worse than not trying.

P I would start from this point forward. It is
very hard to turn people around in a serious



session on a same issue. How about - 37
absentees.

F They split about same.

P If you could get a "pro" absentee back &
get some negatives stay away, you might
win it.

B There were other issues - but, think and -
with a diluted & with effort. I would like to know
we were going to win before we try.

W There is no time limit. P has a point - we
might be better to wait til next year.

P Max, run a check on a 37. (Discussion of - names)

B Rhodes is strongly against equal - as is Mitchell.

P Did you catch flack in your district.

B I really can't tell - I still was in '54 but
I took a lot of flack. You can make a strong
argument on civil security if you don't know
a facts. We could end up as / chosen in
very surprisingly from.

P There is no backing off of my support. R will
stand fast & Max will check that out.

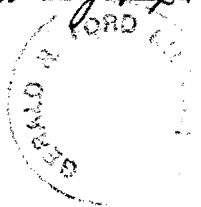
W The Senate won't start it again. I'm afraid
of being left by a House again.

F We could relegate bill to committee to P chairmen
on basis of civil interest & security.

P That might be attractive.

W Some might argue against that on grounds of
power of a Pers.

P Thought he good advice for a P to have that of Max.



Well go ahead checking it.

F Compare test this alt approach. It gives people a chance to shift positions

P lets look into it. Gale, you wanted to mention
ICAD

W ~~There~~ There is some shipping away from
on in a second I can see that
we may not have some prob. Just
wanted to let you know.

