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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for NSC

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, December 22, 1975 9:00 a.m.

PLACE:

Rumsfeld: What is the situation on Taiwan as a result of the China trip?

<u>Kissinger</u>: I said we had about 1800-1900 men there and would continue to reduce.

[More discussion on Taiwan, exercises, sales and war reserve material.]

Rumsfeld: Any interest in stopping at Omaha on the way back from Vail?

President: I have done it twice.

Let me raise something. I gave a sharp statement Friday on Angola and another one on Saturday. Last summer I decided to move on Angola. I was supported except for Nat Davis. I think it was right and I want your support, Don. It is fundamental to our position with respect to the USSR and Cuba.

<u>Rumsfeld</u>: Neither of you have really argued Angola was a vital interest. I am giving a press conference and wanted to support it.

<u>President</u>: I have mentioned a base and shipping lanes as well as the other Soviet arguments.

[Discussion of Angola and the Soviet Lesitovsky (?) report.]

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<u>Rumsfeld</u>: What would you say on Angola?

<u>Kissinger</u>: We will use the funds we have. We will go back to the Congress openly We are working with the African countries. Our objection is not to internal developments in Angola, but to the massive intervention of the Soviets and Cuba. We cannot tolerate the intervention of extracontinental powers.

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