

**The original documents are located in Box C20, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 5/9/1975 (1)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

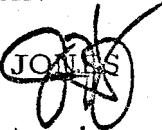
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR  
RON NESSEN

FROM: JERRY H. ~~JOHNS~~ 

SUBJECT: Possible Interview with Foreign  
Journalists before your European Trip

Your memorandum to the President of May 8 on the above subject has been reviewed and the following was approved:

-- Proceed with plans for interview  
as outlined in your recommendation.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Brent Scowcroft

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

JIM CONNOR *jd*

FROM:

RON NESSEN *RHN*

SUBJECT:

Possible interview with foreign  
journalists before your European  
trip.

BACKGROUND:

We have received a number of requests for interviews with you from foreign journalists, both based in Washington and overseas. You have expressed an interest in considering an interview with foreign journalists prior to your European trip at the end of this month. If you should decide to do it, I feel the best date would be May 21.

RECOMMENDATION:

We have reviewed a number of options, ranging from an open news conference restricted to foreign journalists to not doing one at all because of the difficulty of selecting a small group of questioners. After careful consideration, I recommend and Bob McCloskey at the State Department concurs with the following:

A one hour interview filmed for television. This interview would be filmed by the BBC at the White House for showing throughout Europe on the Eurovision network. The questions would be asked by a panel consisting of:

Adalbert de Segonzac (France)  
France Soir

Henry Brandon (England)  
London Sunday Times

Jan Reifenberg (Germany)  
Frankfurter Allgemeine

Marino de Medici (Italy)  
Il Tempo

The moderator would be a senior BBC diplomatic correspondent. All of these people speak good English.

You will probably want to spend several hours in preparation, with Secretary Kissinger and General Scowcroft, since your words would be weighed very, very carefully for any nuances of policy throughout Europe and worldwide.

ADVANTAGES:

The advantage of doing this interview is to make yourself and your views better known throughout Europe just before your trip. It would also present the opportunity to send any policy assurances to our European allies and to set the tone for your trip.

DISADVANTAGES:

The disadvantage of this interview is that the questioners might try to force you into making some policy statement that would not be helpful before the European trip. Also, by limiting the questioners to four, there will be a lot of hurt feelings among those foreign journalists who have requested interviews but will not be chosen to conduct this interview.

DECISION:

NY

Proceed with plans for interview as outlined in your recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_ No interview before my European trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to discuss this with you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
General Brent Scowcroft