

The original documents are located in Box C36, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 3/5/1976 (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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEB*

SUBJECT:

Bicentennial Event for Foreign
Leaders

For your information, the President reviewed Brent Scowcroft's memorandum of February 12 on the above subject and made the following decisions:

1. Proceed with arrangements for Heads of State or Government program.

Disapproved

2. Alternatively, proceed with program described for foreign Ambassadors and their wives in July.

Approved

Preferences:

Reception --at the White House

Dinner --at the White House (Pavillion to be used,
if needed ?)

Commemorative Gift

Yes ?

The original memorandum has been returned to General Scowcroft for appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Jerry Jones



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

The attached memorandum was reviewed by Jack Marsh and Bill Nicholson/Jerry Jones.

Jack Marsh favors Option #2 and indicates that he recommends that the Reception be at the White House and the dinner should also be at the White House (Pavillion to be used, if needed).

Bill Nicholson/Jerry Jones comments are at TAB A.

Jim Connor



THE WHITE HOUSE

436

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

February 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*
SUBJECT: Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

You have approved the concept of hosting a Bicentennial event in July for foreign Heads of State or Government, and we have developed a suggested plan along the lines previously proposed. Since the original concept was submitted, however, a number of considerations have surfaced -- diplomatic, security and financial -- which suggest the need to rethink the original proposal. This memorandum presents the new elements and proposes alternative solutions.

The paragraphs immediately following describe a possible scenario for a Bicentennial gala on the original format, that is, involving foreign Heads of State/Government.

Attendance

Invitations would be extended in your name on behalf of the American people to participate in a two-day Bicentennial program on July 20 and 21 in Washington. For both protocolary and budgetary reasons, it would be desirable to limit invitations only to Chiefs of State or, at the option of the countries concerned, Heads of Government, and their spouses. The total number invited would be approximately 280. It is estimated that as many as one-half to three-fourths of the total number might accept.

Suggested ProgramMonday, July 19

Arrivals.

Tuesday, July 20

Morning and afternoon -- Brief private meetings with selected foreign leaders. It would be appropriate and useful to select a few leaders for

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

KR 4-26-88

private sessions, as has been done on the occasion of State funerals of American dignitaries. It is, of course, possible that some bruised feelings may result if certain individuals are not received privately, and some may not be willing to attend the event unless they are assured of a meeting with you.

Evening -- Dinner at the White House for the foreign visitors and appropriate U.S. invitees, with additional guests, including Ambassadors in Washington and their wives, to be invited for after-dinner entertainment. (Because of the number involved, it would be necessary to consider a pavillion of the type used on the South Lawn in May of 1973 for the POW dinner for approximately 1300 guests.) The White House function will be seen as the keystone of the celebration. It would have great appeal and significance for foreign leaders in general and particularly for those who might not otherwise have an opportunity to be feted at the White House.

Wednesday, July 21

12 Noon -- Possible Joint Session of Congress with Heads of State or Government in attendance. This need not entail a formal address but could include a reading of the Declaration of Independence or similar readings appropriate to the Bicentennial.

-- Because of the number involved, it may not be possible to include spouses at the Joint Session. In that event, Mrs. Ford might consider hosting a luncheon for the wives during this period. It could include the wives of Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and other appropriate guests, and it could take place at the White House or elsewhere. (The new Nation of Nations Exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology Building, could be considered as a possible location and would be an appropriate setting for the dignitaries.)

-- The Congress might be asked to host a luncheon, following the Joint Session or, if desired, the Supreme Court might be considered as host for a luncheon in honor of the visitors. (It could be held at the Smithsonian.)

Evening -- Entertainment at the Kennedy Center. This could include performances of representative American works -- music, ballet, theatre. It should include the best exponents of the American performing arts, and could be developed in consultation with Nancy Hanks, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Commemorative Gift

It would be appropriate to present each Head of State or Government attending the celebration with a Bicentennial gift to commemorate the occasion. Specific recommendations are being considered and will be presented for your approval.

Foreign Policy Factors

There have been a growing number of requests to call on you from foreign leaders planning to be in the U.S. for Bicentennial-related activities. The original concept of the Bicentennial event was to minimize the burden on your schedule. However, in the past two months it has been necessary to schedule Irish Prime Minister Cosgrave and King Hussein of Jordan in March, the King of Sweden in April, President Giscard d'Estaing in May, the King of Spain in June, and Queen Elizabeth in July, the latter three for full State Visits. It will also be necessary to recommend that you see other Official and State visitors this year, in addition to the proposed July event. Further, we can anticipate requests for appointments from foreign leaders who will be here for the UN General Assembly in the fall, whether or not they are received at the White House in July. It is also possible that foreign leaders attending the Montreal Olympics in mid-July will seek appointments with you.

Our preliminary planning thus far has identified several possibly negative foreign policy factors which should be considered:

-- There are risks involved in assembling leaders of widely differing political colorations in the charged atmosphere now prevailing on the international scene: Prime Minister Vorster of South Africa; President Amin of Uganda; and President Pinochet of Chile, are examples of those whose presence could result in incidents, including demonstrations, that even the most meticulous protocol and security arrangements may not be able to prevent;

-- There may be some controversy over invitations to those leaders whose policies are deemed incompatible with democratic values and thus with the very spirit of the Bicentennial;

-- The PRC dilemma: if invited, the PRC will certainly refuse to attend together with the Republic of China; if not, it may well feel slighted and US-PRC relations could be affected;

-- If we attempt to avoid the problems above by selective invitations, we may create resentment among friends or regional colleagues of those leaders who are not invited.

Security

Serious consideration must be given to the possibility of international terrorist activity for which this event could present a tempting target. The recent attack made on the OPEC meeting in Vienna is a reminder to us of the extent to which dedicated terrorists will go to advance their cause.

A gathering of world leaders will certainly attract large numbers of dissident groups to Washington. These groups have diverse reasons for targets they consider oppressive and are inherently opposed to one another. Large areas of the city may have to be sealed off and the security of various Embassies will need to be significantly increased. Extensive military assistance would be required to supplement the combined security resources of the U.S. Secret Service, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the U.S. Park Police. This massive security effort would be visible to all. (It is estimated that over 2.5 million visitors will be in the Washington, D. C. area for the July period.)

In addition, given the security protection extended to political candidates, and the special needs of the July Democratic National Convention, security personnel would already be extended to the maximum.

Domestic Considerations

There will be considerable expense involved, with preliminary estimates as high as \$6 million, including additional security, communications, transportation, etc. (The Congress has allocated only \$9 million to the Bicentennial Administration for the total Bicentennial effort.) However, if the preliminary estimates are accurate, it will be very difficult to reprogram these amounts without affecting our performance elsewhere. This will be particularly true for the Secret Service and the State Department.

The Bicentennial Administration reports that the American people are very much involved in Bicentennial planning and would be keenly interested in having foreign leaders visit their communities if they were in the United

States for a Bicentennial event. If the government were to sponsor such travel, additional costs would be incurred as well as additional security coverage. Furthermore, one unfortunate incident could seriously damage the enthusiasm for Bicentennial activities that has been engendered nationwide.

On the other hand, foreign governments have contributed substantially to our Bicentennial (roughly \$20 million in gifts), plus considerable non-governmental funds.

In light of the foregoing concerns which have come to light, the idea of a Bicentennial event for Heads of State or Government merits reconsideration. On balance, I am inclined to think that the problems involved outweigh the considerable merits of the event. As an alternative to the program outlined above, you might wish to consider hosting a similar but smaller event in July for the Ambassadors in Washington and their wives. It could include the Congress, the Supreme Court, the Cabinet and other appropriate guests. This could involve:

- a White House reception;
- a reception or dinner at the Kennedy Center, followed by appropriate entertainment to commemorate the Bicentennial;
- a reception or dinner at the Smithsonian Institution;
- a commemorative gift.

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Departments of State and Interior, ARBA, Secret Service, the White House Bicentennial Office, OMB, the Military Aide's Office, the Social Office, and reflects their concerns over the original concept.

We would appreciate an indication of your preferences:

1. Proceed with arrangements for Heads of State or Government program. (None of your advisers or the agencies concerned recommend this option.)

Approve _____

Disapprove RR-7

If approved:

Preferences:

Dinner at the White House _____

Elsewhere _____

Joint Session of Congress for Heads of State or Government

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

Luncheon for Heads of State or Government to be offered by:

-- Congress _____

-- Supreme Court _____

-- Other _____

Luncheon for wives:

The First Lady _____

-- at the White House _____

-- at the Smithsonian _____

Elsewhere _____

Evening Entertainment for Heads of State or Government and spouses at the Kennedy Center.

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

2. Alternatively, proceed with program described for foreign Ambassadors and their wives in July.

Approve AKF

Disapprove _____

Preferences:

Reception _____

-- at the White House HR7

-- at the Smithsonian _____

-- at the Kennedy Center _____

Elsewhere _____

Dinner _____

-- at the Smithsonian _____

-- at the Kennedy Center _____

-- at the White House (Pavillion to be used, if needed) ?

Commemorative Gift

Yes ? _____

No _____

3. Alternatively do not schedule a Bicentennial event for the foreign community.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. JAMES CONNOR
THRU: JERRY JONES
FROM: WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON *Wan*
SUBJECT: Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

I have participated in the meetings leading up to the original concept and subsequent sessions exploring other alternatives. In short, the Gala does not seem technically feasible and I would strongly urge the idea be scrapped.

I support the alternative of hosting the foreign ambassadors at a White House function, although I do not feel such an activity must necessarily be staged during July.

The long range calendar is currently reflecting almost all of the leaders from those countries that played a major role in the American Revolution. Therefore, I feel a singular South Lawn event (dinner and entertainment) sometime in July, August, or early September will suffice.



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: February 24, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: February 25, 1976

Time: 3 P.M.

SUBJECT:

Brent Scowcroft's memorandum 2/12/76
re: Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Jim -

Bud McFarlane called very annoyed that his memo had not gone forward to the President -- Called Marsh's office and Mr. Marsh has been in on discussions on this subject but had not seen the memo -- seems there was suppose to be a meeting with Cheney on this - Scowcroft, Marsh and Cheney but it was cancelled because Marsh ~~was~~ was told President has made decisions -
????



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: February 12, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 10 A.M.

SUBJECT:

Brent Scowcroft memo 2/12/76 re
Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

*Bill Nicholson will get end
touch with us
per Deanna
2/19*



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: FEB 24 1976

Date: February 24, 1976

Time:

du: 2/25
3:00

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: February 25, 1976

Time: 3 P.M.

SUBJECT:

Brent Scowcroft's memorandum 2/12/76
re: Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

see attached



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
For the President

CONFIDENTIAL

February 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*
SUBJECT: Bicentennial Event for Foreign Leaders

You have approved the concept of hosting a Bicentennial event in July for foreign Heads of State or Government, and we have developed a suggested plan along the lines previously proposed. Since the original concept was submitted, however, a number of considerations have surfaced -- diplomatic, security and financial -- which suggest the need to rethink the original proposal. This memorandum presents the new elements and proposes alternative solutions.

The paragraphs immediately following describe a possible scenario for a Bicentennial gala on the original format, that is, involving foreign Heads of State/Government.

Attendance

Invitations would be extended in your name on behalf of the American people to participate in a two-day Bicentennial program on July 20 and 21 in Washington. For both protocolary and budgetary reasons, it would be desirable to limit invitations only to Chiefs of State or, at the option of the countries concerned, Heads of Government, and their spouses. The total number invited would be approximately 280. It is estimated that as many as one-half to three-fourths of the total number might accept.

Suggested ProgramMonday, July 19

Arrivals.

Tuesday, July 20

Morning and afternoon -- Brief private meetings with selected foreign leaders. It would be appropriate and useful to select a few leaders for

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

KR 4-26-88

private sessions, as has been done on the occasion of State funerals of American dignitaries. It is, of course, possible that some bruised feelings may result if certain individuals are not received privately, and some may not be willing to attend the event unless they are assured of a meeting with you.

Evening -- Dinner at the White House for the foreign visitors and appropriate U.S. invitees, with additional guests, including Ambassadors in Washington and their wives, to be invited for after-dinner entertainment. (Because of the number involved, it would be necessary to consider a pavillion of the type used on the South Lawn in May of 1973 for the POW dinner for approximately 1300 guests.) The White House function will be seen as the keystone of the celebration. It would have great appeal and significance for foreign leaders in general and particularly for those who might not otherwise have an opportunity to be feted at the White House.

Wednesday, July 21

12 Noon -- Possible Joint Session of Congress with Heads of State or Government in attendance. This need not entail a formal address but could include a reading of the Declaration of Independence or similar readings appropriate to the Bicentennial.

-- Because of the number involved, it may not be possible to include spouses at the Joint Session. In that event, Mrs. Ford might consider hosting a luncheon for the wives during this period. It could include the wives of Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and other appropriate guests, and it could take place at the White House or elsewhere. (The new Nation of Nations Exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology Building, could be considered as a possible location and would be an appropriate setting for the dignitaries.)

-- The Congress might be asked to host a luncheon, following the Joint Session or, if desired, the Supreme Court might be considered as host for a luncheon in honor of the visitors. (It could be held at the Smithsonian.)

Evening -- Entertainment at the Kennedy Center. This could include performances of representative American works -- music, ballet, theatre. It should include the best exponents of the American performing arts, and could be developed in consultation with Nancy Hanks, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Commemorative Gift

It would be appropriate to present each Head of State or Government attending the celebration with a Bicentennial gift to commemorate the occasion. Specific recommendations are being considered and will be presented for your approval.

Foreign Policy Factors

There have been a growing number of requests to call on you from foreign leaders planning to be in the U.S. for Bicentennial-related activities. The original concept of the Bicentennial event was to minimize the burden on your schedule. However, in the past two months it has been necessary to schedule Irish Prime Minister Cosgrave and King Hussein of Jordan in March, the King of Sweden in April, President Giscard d'Estaing in May, the King of Spain in June, and Queen Elizabeth in July, the latter three for full State Visits. It will also be necessary to recommend that you see other Official and State visitors this year, in addition to the proposed July event. Further, we can anticipate requests for appointments from foreign leaders who will be here for the UN General Assembly in the fall, whether or not they are received at the White House in July. It is also possible that foreign leaders attending the Montreal Olympics in mid-July will seek appointments with you.

Our preliminary planning thus far has identified several possibly negative foreign policy factors which should be considered:

-- There are risks involved in assembling leaders of widely differing political colorations in the charged atmosphere now prevailing on the international scene: Prime Minister Vorster of South Africa; President Amin of Uganda; and President Pinochet of Chile, are examples of those whose presence could result in incidents, including demonstrations, that even the most meticulous protocol and security arrangements may not be able to prevent;

-- There may be some controversy over invitations to those leaders whose policies are deemed incompatible with democratic values and thus with the very spirit of the Bicentennial;

-- The PRC dilemma: if invited, the PRC will certainly refuse to attend together with the Republic of China; if not, it may well feel slighted and US-PRC relations could be affected;

-- If we attempt to avoid the problems above by selective invitations, we may create resentment among friends or regional colleagues of those leaders who are not invited.

Security

Serious consideration must be given to the possibility of international terrorist activity for which this event could present a tempting target. The recent attack made on the OPEC meeting in Vienna is a reminder to us of the extent to which dedicated terrorists will go to advance their cause.

A gathering of world leaders will certainly attract large numbers of dissident groups to Washington. These groups have diverse reasons for targets they consider oppressive and are inherently opposed to one another. Large areas of the city may have to be sealed off and the security of various Embassies will need to be significantly increased. Extensive military assistance would be required to supplement the combined security resources of the U.S. Secret Service, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the U.S. Park Police. This massive security effort would be visible to all. (It is estimated that over 2.5 million visitors will be in the Washington, D. C. area for the July period.)

In addition, given the security protection extended to political candidates, and the special needs of the July Democratic National Convention, security personnel would already be extended to the maximum.

Domestic Considerations

There will be considerable expense involved, with preliminary estimates as high as \$6 million, including additional security, communications, transportation, etc. (The Congress has allocated only \$9 million to the Bicentennial Administration for the total Bicentennial effort.) However, if the preliminary estimates are accurate, it will be very difficult to reprogram these amounts without affecting our performance elsewhere. This will be particularly true for the Secret Service and the State Department.

The Bicentennial Administration reports that the American people are very much involved in Bicentennial planning and would be keenly interested in having foreign leaders visit their communities if they were in the United

States for a Bicentennial event. If the government were to sponsor such travel, additional costs would be incurred as well as additional security coverage. Furthermore, one unfortunate incident could seriously damage the enthusiasm for Bicentennial activities that has been engendered nationwide.

On the other hand, foreign governments have contributed substantially to our Bicentennial (roughly \$20 million in gifts), plus considerable non-governmental funds.

In light of the foregoing concerns which have come to light, the idea of a Bicentennial event for Heads of State or Government merits reconsideration. On balance, I am inclined to think that the problems involved outweigh the considerable merits of the event. As an alternative to the program outlined above, you might wish to consider hosting a similar but smaller event in July for the Ambassadors in Washington and their wives. It could include the Congress, the Supreme Court, the Cabinet and other appropriate guests. This could involve:

- a White House reception;
- a reception or dinner at the Kennedy Center, followed by appropriate entertainment to commemorate the Bicentennial;
- a reception or dinner at the Smithsonian Institution;
- a commemorative gift.

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Departments of State and Interior, ARBA, Secret Service, the White House Bicentennial Office, OMB, the Military Aide's Office, the Social Office, and reflects their concerns over the original concept.

We would appreciate an indication of your preferences:

1. Proceed with arrangements for Heads of State or Government program. (None of your advisers or the agencies concerned recommend this option.)

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

If approved:

Preferences:

Dinner at the White House _____

Elsewhere _____

Joint Session of Congress for Heads of State or Government

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

Luncheon for Heads of State or Government to be offered by:

-- Congress _____

-- Supreme Court _____

-- Other _____

Luncheon for wives:

The First Lady _____

-- at the White House _____

-- at the Smithsonian _____

Elsewhere _____

Evening Entertainment for Heads of State or Government and spouses at the Kennedy Center.

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

- 2. Alternatively, proceed with program described for foreign Ambassadors and their wives in July.

Approve M

Disapprove _____

Preferences:

Reception _____

-- at the White House _____

-- at the Smithsonian _____

-- at the Kennedy Center _____

Elsewhere _____

Dinner _____

-- at the Smithsonian _____

-- at the Kennedy Center _____

-- at the White House (Pavillion to be used, if needed) _____

Commemorative Gift

Yes _____ No _____

3. Alternatively do not schedule a Bicentennial event for the foreign community.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____