

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
Amb. Vincent Mavoungou, Ambassador of Gabon
Lawrence Gussman, New York entrepreneur
Mark L. Wolf, lawyer, Surrey, Karasik & Morse
Howard Rusk, Jr., Director of the Albert
Schweitzer Foundation Fund Raising Drive
Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Alec Toumayan (State Department Interpreter)

DATE AND TIME: Monday, February 11, 1974
12:00 noon

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: I have been to Gabon but I didn't get to visit the hospital.

Mavoungou: I grew up there.

President: We had to go in by boat -- there was no plane.

Gussman: I want to thank you, Mr. President, for the support you have given to obtaining the appropriation for the Schweitzer Hospital.

President: This is from the American people. It's the taxpayers' money.

Gussman: This bust of Schweitzer is for you.

President: Leo Cherne, I understand.

Mavoungou: It brings out Schweitzer's strength.

President: Please express our best wishes to President Bongo, our sympathy, and our help to the extent we can give it.

(Cufflinks are given out.)



Rusk: My father extends his best wishes to you.

President: He is a remarkable man. He has done many wonderful things. Tell him to keep it up.

Where did you go to school?

Wolf: Harvard Law School. I was in the same class with Ed Cox.

President: He went with Cravath. Your work is more interesting.



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THE WHITE HOUSE (162)

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1974

MEETING WITH DELEGATION
FROM ALBERT SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 11, 1974

12:00 noon (10 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

I. PURPOSE

To permit the Committee to express appreciation to you for your support in obtaining a \$1 million appropriation for the Hospital, located in Lambarene, Gabon, in the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Legislation for Fiscal Year 1974.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

You serve as an Honorary Co-Chairman of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital International Fund Drive. The Congressional appropriation for the Hospital is a significant contribution to the Hospital's work. The principal Co-Chairman of the Hospital Committee, Mr. Lawrence Gussman, has asked that you meet with a small delegation from the Committee so they might thank you for your support. He wishes to present to you personally a Certificate of Appreciation. A small, engraved bust of Schweitzer will also be received for you in advance of the meeting.

As the people of Gabon will be beneficiaries of the appropriation, we believe it is appropriate for the Ambassador from Gabon, Vincent Mavoungou, to be present. Ambassador Mavoungou presented his credentials to you July 26, 1973. The Ambassador, who does not speak English, will be provided an interpreter. You met with the President of Gabon, Albert Bernard Bongo, in the Oval Office August 2, 1973.

B. Participants

Vincent Mavoungou, Gabonese Ambassador

Lawrence Gussman, New York entrepreneur.

Mark Wolfe ~~Burke Gihlin~~, Chief Executive Officer,

Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical, Inc.

Howard Rusk, Jr., Director of the Albert Schweitzer
Foundation Fund Raising Drive.

Brent Scowcroft.

Alec Toumayan (State Department Interpreter).

C. Press Plan

Press photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. It is a pleasure for me to serve as Honorary Co-Chairman of the Schweitzer Hospital International Fund Drive. I am gratified that Congress has joined me in supporting the Hospital by providing a grant-in-aid of one million dollars for the Hospital in the fiscal 1974 Foreign Assistance Appropriations Legislation.

2. I am delighted that this appropriation will be used to assist in the construction of a new wing for the Hospital dedicated to the treatment of leprosy victims.

3. Mr. Ambassador, I am pleased that you could join us today. The public and private U. S. assistance to the Hospital is a demonstration of the close and friendly relations that exist between our two countries. It was a great pleasure for me to meet your President in August and we had a most useful conversation. Please send him my personal regards.

4. The Albert Schweitzer Hospital Committee must be proud of its accomplishments and of the privilege of being able to assist this important African institution. I have appreciated the opportunity to be associated with you in this important work.

Pers / Albert Schweitzer Hay Gate
11 Feb 74

- P I have been there (stop) least didn't get to
- M I agree w/ those
- P Had to go in by boat - no plane
- C Want to thank you
- P This from Am people. Tappan's way
- E This boat is for you
- P Les Chama, I understand
- PK Being out Sch. Strange
- P Express am best wishes to Bonyo
Sympathy & felt extent we can
give it.
(Coffin)
- R Father extends best wishes
- P Remarkable work ^{work} Augustus, VII,
may ~~a~~ wonderful change - I believe
to keep up.
- W Where go to school
- W Howard law school. Lives in small
class with Ed Cox.
- P He went w/ Chavich. Your work
were interesting.

