

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



CONFIDENTIAL/EYES ONLY

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Ambassador David Bruce, U.S. Perm. Rep.
on the North Atlantic Council
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Tuesday - November 12, 1974
12:45 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: I can't express enough our gratitude that you would take this on. It is a tough job and we are just delighted to have you there.

Bruce: I am pleased to do it. I know a lot of the leaders and people there. That is the only advantage of old age.

The problem with our allies is, how do we get people who have got security on their own to abandon nationalism?

President: That is right. They are having economic problems, and political.

Bruce: They have weak governments.

President: There have been better than half a dozen new governments there over the past year.

Bruce: Yes. And Italy never has one.

I read Giscard's speech telling the French they are in for a tough time. That used to be the kiss of death. He and Schmidt are strong. The British are awfully weak. Their problems are fundamental. We are really blessed as we look around.

President: We must take a lesson from this that we can't live off the future.

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Bruce: But how do we get people to live not thinking that each year will automatically be better? You are the only person in the world who can exercise that kind of leadership.

[There was light discussion of food and weight, and of President Ford's trip to China in 1972 with Congressman Boggs.]

President: The Chinese went out of their way for us.

Bruce: I miss Hale Boggs. He was a fine man.

President: That was tragic. He was a real leader.

I flew 200,000 miles a year when I was the Minority Leader.

