

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador Henry Catto, Chief of Protocol
Paulias N. Matane, Appointed Ambassador
of Papua New Guinea
Lester E. Edmond, Deputy Assistant Secretary
of State for East Asian Affairs
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, January 23, 1976
2:30 - 3:05 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Presentation of Credentials



[The press came in to take photos. The President discussed his landing at Bougainville during the war after the operations against Robaul. Matane discussed present day Bougainville. The press left.]

Matane: There have been some recent problems with Bougainville. Some people want to break away, but we won't let that happen.

Many of us still remember Americans from the war and we would like to continue that good relationship. We have had missionaries and other good contacts with Americans as well.

President: What is the capital?

Matane: Port Moresby. I am trying to make friends with service people who served there.

President: There were plenty at Port Moresby. I am sure Defense could be helpful in getting names.

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 (b) (1, 3)
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY [Signature], NARA, DATE 6/7/04

Matane: We haven't quite made up our minds about foreign policy since we are a new country. We plan to concentrate on internal development but we won't cut ourselves off from the outside world. We will concentrate on the Southwest Pacific area and then on relations with you.

President: We have good memories of your country and want to have the best of relations with you. We will be active in a constructive way in that part of the world. We will be as helpful as possible in your early plans. To the extent we can, we will work with you.



P/Armb Matans

23 Jan 76

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(Pres discussed launching at Bonyawills offer
opns against Robert. Matans discussed
present day Bonyawills)
(Pres out)

M There have been some recent pct. w/ Bonyawills.
Some people want to break away but we
won't let that happen.

Many of us still remember Armb from 1962
& we would like to continue that good relationship.
We have had missionaries & other good contacts
w/ Armb as well.

P what is a capital

M Port Moresby, I trying to make friends w/
several people who served there.

P There were plenty at Port M. I sense
they could be helped in getting names.

M We haven't quite got our minds about F.P.
since we are new. We plan to concentrate
on internal development but won't cut ourselves
off from outside world. We will concentrate
on S.W. Pacific area & then our relations
w/ you.

P We have good memories of your country
& want to have a best of relations w/ you.
We will be active in a constructive
way in that part of the world. We will be
as helpful as possible in your early
years. To extent we can we will
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