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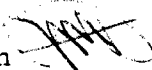
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: OEOB Office  
TIME: 2:30 p.m.  
DATE: January 16, 1974

SUBJECT: Meeting with United States Ambassador to France,  
John N. Irwin II

PARTICIPANTS:

The Vice President  
Major General Dunn 

Ambassador John N. Irwin II

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Ambassador Irwin expressed confidence that Franco/American relations generally are on the upswing. There are few, if any, really major differences separating us. Nonetheless, it is important to remember that the French attitude toward Western European union and NATO is fundamentally different than our own, and the effect of past American initiatives taken without consultation with our allies remains substantial. The French generally fear our leaving Europe, remember very well their three wars with the Germans, and, therefore, prize their own nuclear strike force. They are, however, worried as well by the possibility of German neutrality. For this, among other reasons, they are less than enthusiastic about MBFR and especially about any introduction of a "special zone concept" which might lead to a neutral area in Europe which, in turn, would radically affect the balance in Europe.

Ambassador Irwin suggested that the Vice President draw out the French Ambassador if the opportunity presents itself during his call later in the week.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

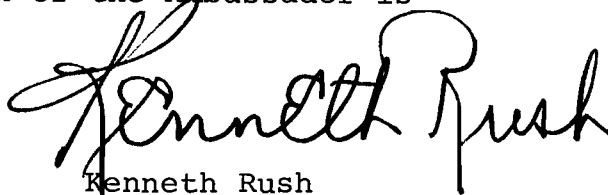
January 14, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

Subject: Appointment for Ambassador Irwin

Ambassador Irwin will be in Washington on consultation from Paris on Wednesday, January 16. The Ambassador would like to make a brief courtesy call on you during his stay here. He would be available at your convenience.

A biographic sketch of the Ambassador is attached.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Rush". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Kenneth Rush  
Acting Secretary

Attachment:

Biographic sketch

JOHN NICHOL IRWIN II

Ambassador to France

John N. Irwin II has served as United States Ambassador to the Republic of France since March 1973.

Born on December 31, 1913 in Keokuk, Iowa, Mr. Irwin is a graduate of Princeton, class of 1937. He also studied at Oxford, where he received a B.A. in jurisprudence, and at Fordham, where he received an LL.B. degree in 1941. Mr. Irwin spent five years in the Army during World War II, and is the recipient of the Legion of Merit and the Medal of Freedom.

Ambassador Irwin served as Under Secretary (later Deputy Secretary) of State from September 1970 to January 1973. Before his appointment as Under Secretary, he was a partner in the law firm of Patterson, Belknap & Webb in New York City, with which he had been associated since 1950.

He served from 1957 to 1961 as Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. More recently, Mr. Irwin served as the President's special envoy to Peru in the dispute over Peru's seizure of US-owned oil properties. He also spent two years from 1965 to 1967 as United States Representative in negotiations for a new draft Panama Canal Treaty.

Ambassador Irwin's wife, who died in 1970, was the former Jane Watson of New York. He has two children--Jane, 20, and John, 18.