



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: OEOB
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
DATE: February 11, 1974

SUBJECT: Meeting With Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.,
United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President
Mr. Marsh

Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel

The Vice President met with Ambassador Walter Stoessel (W.S.) who will leave shortly to take his post in Moscow. The discussion began shortly after 9:00 a.m. and continued for approximately 30 minutes.

There was general conversation in reference to Ambassador Dobrynin. W.S. indicated that the Kissinger-Dobrynin relationship was so close he expects many of the decisions will be made in Washington as opposed to Moscow.

The Vice President referred to the invitation of the Supreme Soviet for members of Congress to visit USSR. He explained the Speaker's position of no House visit to USSR but have the Supreme Soviet visit here in 1974. Under no circumstances will the visits be combined, i. e., both Senate and House.

W.S. favors different types of exchanges with the USSR. He spoke of MFN and problems with the Trade Bill. He referred to the negotiation situation and Soviet resistance to releasing dissidents. W.S. does not expect to be directly involved in MBFR or SALT II. He feels SALT negotiations will be most difficult. He praised SECDEF and the job he is doing.