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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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DECLASSIFIED, with *for how* *ext*  
AUTHORITY *NSC Review 12/6/04; state visit*  
BY *Wd* NLF, DATE *4/13/07*

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford  
Ambassador Kenneth Rush, U.S. Ambassador  
to France  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, November 8, 1974  
12:45 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
The White House

[The press is admitted for photographs.]

Ambassador Rush: I am studying French four hours a day. I am not talking with college professors.

The President: Don't get taken in.

[The press leaves.]

Ambassador Rush: I have had heavy briefings. Some of them are post-hole types.

The President: I think State has taken too many people over the years from Harvard, Yale and Princeton. They spend too much time overseas, and in this country they don't get out of Washington.

Ambassador Rush: Some of them become expatriates. The myopic view of Washington is terrible -- it's due to the Washington Post.

The President: Are you going to Martinique?

Ambassador Rush: Yes.

Presidential Library Review of NSC and POSS Equities is Required  
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The President: Do you know Giscard?Ambassador Rush: No. But I know Sauvagnargues well. He is a technician. Giscard has three problems:

- (1) Women -- he is indiscreet
- (2) He is lazy.
- (3) He is surrounded by technicians and weak men.

25X1

As you know, part of President Nixon's problem was the men around him.

The President: I have read he is an expert on financial matters.Ambassador Rush: That is true. There is no reason to think he has any particular foreign policy. We don't know, but maybe he is following Pompidou but without the American rancor.The President: But that announcement of a producer-consumer conference undercut us. We don't like it and we ought to let them know it.

Also, on occasion they try to get Europe together organized against us. We can't tolerate Europe unified against us and they should know it.

Ambassador Rush: I agree. They are not so much anti-American as pro-French. They are jealous of Great Britain and resentful of German dependence on the United States. But they do want our military support in Europe. They blame us for their ills. They say the economic problems result from the energy crisis which they say is our fault and we are trying to weaken them to reimpose our control.

The French economy is strong. We think of Germany as being strong but France is also. The devaluation has helped them greatly and the economy is growing at a satisfactory rate.

They don't seem too worried about oil. They are paying \$8 billion more though . . .

The President: They are more dependent than us. They like to deal bilaterally with the Arabs.Ambassador Rush: They sold Mirages to Egypt and Libya and earlier to Israel.

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The President: I know you will do a great job and we'll see you in December.

Ambassador Rush: This is a job I really want: I didn't like DOD -- I did it for Nixon -- I liked State, but this is what I really want.

The President: You'll do a great job. We'll make out all right if the Congress will help us.

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