

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Mrs. Anne Armstrong, Ambassador Designate  
to the Court of St. James  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the  
President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, January 14, 1976  
10:45 - 11:13 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: I have not been to Great Britain since I became President, except for a stop at Mildenhall.

I think the news magazines are ecstatic about your appointment and you will sail through with no problem.

We do have a problem with the Brits relating to the Concorde. Bill Coleman has to make a decision now and I am sure the Brits will want to talk about it. I have strong personal views, which, of course, I haven't told Bill because of his responsibility. I have always been a strong advocate of the SST and I deeply regret our decision and I am glad someone is building the SST.

Then there is the Irish problem, which we are trying to stay out of.

Scowcroft: There is a problem of gun running.

The President: Let's find out what the situation is.

Armstrong: It is a sensitive issue in this election year. Then I may be asked about American companies and British oil fields.

Scowcroft: State will brief you on these things.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Dep. memo 3/11/04  
BY ll, NARA DATE 6/7/09

~~SECRET - XGDS (3)~~  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER



The President: I get along very well with Wilson. I have met with him four or five times. The Brits are having economic trouble, but are doing better than expected. Inflation is still about 20% and the British are slower than the others in coming out of the recession.

There is another issue -- the Chrysler plant. It was non-competitive because of labor problems. Wilson told me they would put up the funds to keep one plant going -- about 25,000 workers. The government has promised a revision of wage and workers relations.

I can't think of more problems.

Scowcroft: Our relations couldn't be better.

Armstrong: How did you find Mrs. Thatcher?

The President: She was very nice. A charming person and I suspect a tough competitor. I think you will like her.

Armstrong: Of course. I don't have any natural inclination toward Wilson and his political views.

The President: We really discuss only international affairs.

Scowcroft: I should point out that our relations with this government are much better than with Heath. Heath really had a sort of a Gaullist attitude toward the United States. Things are much better with Wilson. And you will be crazy about Callaghan.

Armstrong: How about the cod war?

Scowcroft: We have stayed completely neutral on that one.

The President: Anne, I know you will do a great job and I wish you all the best. You know the Queen is coming next July. She's spending several days here. I think they want us to go to New York for dinner on their yacht.



Find out about your meeting

✓ P/ Anne Armstrong  
14 Jan 76

10:45 - 11:13 am 2

P I have not been to GB since I see, I've got  
for a stop at Wickenhall

I think a news agency are established  
you expect + you will find them w/  
and job.

We do have a pro etc. bits relating to  
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personal views which of course I haven't  
told him because of his rep. I have  
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deeply regret our decision + I glad someone  
is building SST.

There there is a Irish job which we trying  
to stay out of

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P Lets find out what it is.

A It is a sensitive issue in this election year.  
There may be asked about US companies &  
Br. oil fields.

S State will brief you on these things.

P I get along very well w/ Wilson. I have met  
w/ him 4 or 5 times. The Brits are having  
some trouble but doing better than expected.  
Inflation still about 20% + Br slower than  
others in carrying out of decision.

There is another issue - a Chrysler plant.  
It was near - Cray. Because of labor  
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25,000 workers. The govt has provided  
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NBC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES state rev. 03/11/04  
BY lwb, NARA, DATE 6/21/04



I don't think of more parts.

S Our relations wouldn't be better.

A How did you find Mrs. Thatcher

P She was very nice, a charming person and I respect a tough competitor. I think you will like her.

A Oh please, I don't have any natural inclination toward Wilson + his political views.

P We really discuss only world affairs.

S I should point out that our relations w/ this Govt are much better than w/ Heath. Heath really had a sort of a Gavelist attitude toward a U.S. They are much better w/ Wilson. And you will be crazy about Callaghan.

A How about a Cold War

S We have stayed completely neutral on that one.

P Come, I know you will do a great job + I wish you all the best. You know the Queen is coming next July. Spending several days here. I think they want us to go to L. Y. for dinner on their yacht.

