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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: PHIL AREEDA PA
FROM: BILL CASSELMAN BC
SUBJECT: Policy on Foreign Gift Giving

In view of increasing Congressional and media attention to the value of gifts being exchanged between U.S. and foreign officials, you may wish to consider the following options:

OPTION 1: Continue the present policy of exchanging gifts of varying and even significant value, as strongly favored by the Department of State.

Pro: Kissinger "feels that, given the deeply engrained traits of such peoples as the Arabs, the Chinese, etc., it would be very difficult to explain what we were doing and why if we should opt to end the practice. He feels that should Congress try to limit gift giving by law, we should oppose such a limit."

Con: There is some public concern over "large" gifts. Furthermore, State has refused GAO requests for cost data on specific gifts because this would invite comparison of the cost of gifts given to different heads of state. This lack of accountability has prompted serious efforts by Senator Proxmire to provide Congress with a full report of all gifts costing more than \$50.

OPTION 2: Limit gifts to items of moderate value, such as autographed pictures. (Queen Elizabeth gives only pictures. King Hussein gave you an autographed picture only last year when you

were Vice President. You presented framed pictures to President Giscard during your meeting in Martinique.)

Pro: Consistent with Congressional proposals to prohibit gifts in excess of \$50, and with public attitudes on gift giving. Does not encourage comparisons of gifts. Would have a reciprocal effect on the value of gifts given to you and other government officials.

Con: Would be difficult for some foreign governments to understand, and might be construed to reflect a change in foreign policy directed at those countries. Cost savings too small to justify a break in tradition.

OPTION 3: Submit legislation limiting official gifts to foreign dignitaries to items of moderate cost (e.g., less than \$50).

Pro: General legislative policy is less likely to be misinterpreted by any particular country.

Con: Unnecessary. Perhaps too inflexible.

Recommendation: I recommend Option #2, in the belief that the domestic policy advantages outweigh the foreign policy disadvantages, and that a new uniform policy could be satisfactorily explained to foreign governments.


Decision:

OPTION 1 -- Maintain the present policy _____

OPTION 2 -- Adopt a policy of limiting gifts to those of moderate or minimal value, primarily autographed pictures _____

OPTION 3 -- Submit legislation to Congress to limit foreign gift giving _____

Have a Meeting

 _____

FEB 12 1975

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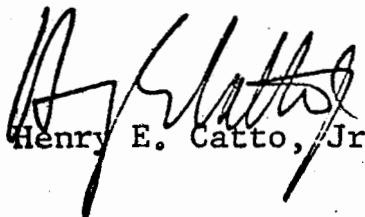
THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD RUMSFELD

Subject: Your Request for a State Department
Position on the Giving of Official
Gifts

The Secretary feels that, given the deeply engrained traits of such peoples as the Arabs, the Chinese, etc., it would be very difficult to explain what we were doing and why if we should opt to end the practice. He feels that should Congress try to limit gift giving by law, we should oppose such a limit.


Henry E. Catto, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM CASSELMAN

FROM: JERRY ~~SONES~~

Attached is the Chief of Protocol's memo concerning the Secretary of State's position on giving of official gifts to foreign heads of state and officials. Please prepare a Presidential decision memorandum outlining Presidential options for gift giving which would include as one option the Secretary of State's position. You should give the pros and cons for each option and recommend the option which you feel most appropriate. Could I have this paper by COB Wednesday, February 19.

Thank you.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 25, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL AREEDA
BILL CASSELMAN

FROM:

JERRY H. ~~JOHNSON~~

SUBJECT:

Policy on Foreign Gift Giving

Your memorandum to the President of February 21 on the above subject has been reviewed and the approved decision is to have a meeting.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Warren Rustand
Terry O'Donnell