

October 6, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford met with Y. B. Chavan, Minister of External Affairs of India, today in the Oval Office at 4:00 p.m. for 30 minutes. Also attending the meeting on the American side were Secretary Kissinger, General Scowcroft and Ambassador Saxbe; on the Indian side G. Parthasarathi, Chief of Policy Planning, Ministry of External Affairs; Kewal Singh, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Ambassador T. N. Kaul.

The President welcomed this opportunity for a full and constructive exchange of views with Minister Chavan on the development of Indian-American relations as well as on matters of regional and international importance. The President reaffirmed his support for the efforts by India and the other states in the area to normalize relations in the interests of continuing peace and stability in South Asia. The President and Minister Chavan also discussed the activities of the Indo-US Joint Commission which is meeting in Washington today and tomorrow with Secretary of State Kissinger and Minister Chavan as Co-Chairmen. The President views this Commission as a promising mechanism for expanding areas of cooperation for the mutual benefit of our two countries.

Among the international issues the President and Minister Chavan discussed were the efforts to solve global economic problems, particularly those affecting the developing world. They indicated their desire to see both countries cooperate closely in these efforts.

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