

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met this afternoon for 45 minutes with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of the Federal Republic of Germany. Minister Genscher was accompanied by Mr. Heinz Weber of the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Berndt von Staden. Secretary Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, also participated in the meeting.

Today's meeting, following on the President's meeting with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in July, 1976, permitted a very cordial and far-ranging exchange of views on a number of issues of importance to the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. Minister Genscher is in the United States for the current session of the UN General Assembly, and the President welcomed Minister Genscher's proposal -- given in his speech to the General Assembly today -- for a Convention Concerning International Measures Against the Taking of Hostages. The President stated that the United States would give the proposed Convention our strong support.

The President and the Foreign Minister discussed developments in Southern Africa. They welcomed the diplomatic progress of the past week and agreed that the way is now open for an African solution to an African problem, free of outside intervention.

The President and the Foreign Minister also devoted time today to reviewing US-FRG and NATO Alliance issues of current interest. They agreed that US-FRG relations are excellent.

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