

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon  
Ambassador John Irwin II, Ambassador to France  
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, March 9, 1973  
12:40 - 12:52 p. m.

PLACE: Oval Office

(The press enters for photos.)

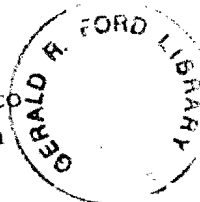
President: When do you go?

Irwin: A week from tomorrow.

President: It's a nice house. The former place was so inadequate.  
(The Press left).

President: The main thing is, to the extent you can talk to Pompidou, to say you were selected because France is an important post. I wanted someone who knew foreign policy. France is so important that I decided against the advice I got and put a "pro" in. And a "pro" who is close to me both personally and politically. As you know, we have a private channel.

In your talks with the French -- you know they are sensitive about the special relationship; they are parochial--say that the President has a special affection for France. You should encourage France to turn out rather than in. Tell the President I want to talk not only on bilateral things, but on East-West matters and other things. I want



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EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 B (3)  
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DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
NSC MEMO, 11/24/08, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES  
BY 11/24/08, NARA, DATE 3/20/04  
State Review 3/19/04

a personal consultation basis with the President. France has the best civil service in the world. World peace is served best if France plays a large role in the world, as in pre-World War II days.

If you can get across that economic confrontation with Europe would destroy military cooperation. We will have competition, but within cooperative limits. Japan should be brought into the club. This is vital. There is a linkage between the economic and the military.

I am enormously suspicious of the Soviet Union. We will deal with them on a quid pro quo basis.

Having made a breakthrough with the Chinese and the Soviet Union, we want to focus on Europe.

Irwin: I think France wants to focus on the larger world.

President: Tell the President I said to the Cabinet that the French President has a great brain. Tell him I want closer consultations with him.

France is concerned with the glory of France. They don't want just a nation of shopkeepers.

Irwin: France wants to participate. I want to implement your policy. Henry and Scowcroft keep me abreast of the nuances

President: On nuclear cooperation. I want France and the British to build all they want. I am for nuclear cooperation.

I want a close relationship with the President -- as the heir of deGaulle.

Irwin: The President may be event more needed now than deGaulle.

President: It is a great post. You've had some illustrious predecessors.

I saw Dillon recently.

I wish you well. I have no plans for a visit now. I think it is my turn. Please indicate that I wish to come, but I must stick around-- Congress, the Soviet summit. But I will be there during your tour.

Don't let yourself eat much French bread.

(The meeting concluded with warm farewells.)



Wtg 5/ Senior 9 March

President / Amb. Luce  
12:15 pm  
Friday, 9 March

12:40 - P when go

I Week. Tom

P Nice house. Former place is much better

Bus left 12:42

P Main thing is to extent your <sup>own</sup> talk to Karpis to say you were selected because France important part. I wanted someone who knew F. France is important that I decided against advice & put a "pro" in. And a "pro" who close both personally & politically. As you know, we have a private channel.

As you talk w/ French - you know they sensitive about special relationships - they are provincial

But say Pils has special affection for France - you should encourage F to turn out rather than in. Tell

P I want to talk not only bilateral, but E-W, then personal consultation basis w/ P. F has done civil service in world. At

World peace saved but if F plays a large role in world, as in pre WWII days.

If you can get across that ~~economic~~ economic cooperation w/ Europe would oblige military

exp. We will have competition, but w/in cooperation framework. Japan should be brought into club. This is vital. There is linkage but econ + mil.

I am enormously suspicious of SC. We will deal w/ them on equal pro quo basis.

Having much better than id / PR & SC, we want to focus on E.

I I think F wants to focus on larger world

P Tell P I said to Cabinet that P has a great brain. Tell him I want closer consultation w/ him.

F comes w/ glory of F. Don't want just mention of shogun

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NSC MEMO, 11/20/08, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES #161 view 3/9/04

BY: [signature], NARA, DATE 3/20/14



I F. even wants to participate. I want to implement  
open pol. H + S can keep out almost of nuances

P This cooperation. I want F + B into to build all  
they want. I am for <sup>ambition</sup> cooperation.

I want close relationship w P - as the ~~best~~  
best of de Gaulle

I P may be ~~more~~ more ~~needed~~ more ~~than~~  
de Gaulle

P It is a great post. I mentioned period of a  
Illustration ~~of de Gaulle~~

I saw Arthur recently

I wish you well. No plans for exact now.

Think it's my turn. Please indicate desire

to come, but must strike careful - say, 50

minutes. But I will be there during your  
tour.

Farewells - Don't let too much French head.

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