MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Soviet Women's Gymnastic Team
Lyubov' I. Boganova, Gymnast
Ol'ga V. Korbut, Gymnast
Antonina V. Koshe1', Gymnast
Tamara V. Lazakovich, Gymnast
Rusudan A. Sikharulidze, Gymnast
Lyudmila I. Turishcheva, Gymnast
Vladimir M. Smolevskiy, Group Leader
Vikentiy D. Dmitriyev, Coach
Renald I. Dnysh, Coach
Vladislav S. Rastorotskiy, Coach
Lyudmila I. Il'yashevasaya, Interpreter

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, March 21, 1973
11:58 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: Congratulations on your performance in the Olympics. Congratulations, too, on the reception you have had in the United States. I watched the Olympics on television. I noticed you always land on your feet. That is what our politicians always try to do — not always with success.

I welcome you not only for your achievements but for what you represent.

As I meet with your leaders, we will be talking about the future, the young people. Whatever differences there are between leaders, we want a world in which the young people can live in peace.

(The President asked the ages of the group members.)
Smolenskiy: I am happy to give you a memento of our visit.

President: Thank you very much. I want to present to each girl the Presidential seal -- you see it on the floor and ceiling -- in a pin, and for the men in cuff links.

Let me say again, you had a great reception. You are television personalities, all of you.

I hope you enjoy your tour of the White House. It's not so big and old as the Kremlin but it's a great building.

(The meeting ended.)
I don't know how much you'll understand this in the US or elsewhere, but I've always been interested in politics and how they work, but sometimes it feels like I'm just a part of the system.

I'm not sure if you're aware of it, but everything we do is always in service of what's happening now. What's happening now is not what's happening in the future, but rather what's happening now.

I've been thinking about what's happening now, not what's happening in the future. The young people, the future generation, want more happiness and less dependency on others. They want to be independent and take control of their own lives.

That's why I've been working hard to make sure that the young people have a chance to thrive.

17th March 75