MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE & TIME: Thursday, June 7, 1973
10:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

SUBJECT: Cabinet Meeting

The President: I want to formally introduce Al Haig and Mel Laird, who will be key assistants to me in the White House.

Laird: Our foreign policy approach, the Nixon doctrine -- partnership, strength, willingness to negotiate -- is much better understood and articulated than is our course in domestic affairs. This we need to change. We want to rely more on the Departments.

The President: We want ideas from the Cabinet. We don't want all the ideas coming from the White House and then flowing to the Departments to execute.

We have this FBI announcement.

Ford: There should be early consultation when programs and legislation are being formulated.

Secretary Morton: We need, then, to consult before the Executive Branch has a position.

Attorney General Richardson: It is tough to consult before ideas have gone through the process and the President has made a judgment. The press will write who won and who lost, etc.

Secretary Lynn: It can be done in terms of presenting options in order to get an input from Congress.

The President: Consultation must be delicately handled. Some Congressmen will use it for their own purposes. Get advice before you leap off.

Sen. Scott: I want to say one thing more on consultation. If you want legislation, there's no point in coming in with something which has no chance. Don't make us object to amendments unless you really oppose them. Let just unnecessary ones go by.

The President: The Vietnamese negotiations are in a sensitive stage.

The Pompidou meeting was very successful in getting us moving toward cooperation in Europe.

On energy, we'll probably move near the end of the week.

I will be spending full time with Brezhnev. This will be positive, I think. The people approve of what we are doing. The relationship with the Chinese and the Soviets; we ended a war, ended the draft; we're working on other problems.

On the domestic front, the chief problem is inflation. With Watergate as an irritant.

We have been through tough times, but we know what is best (we think) for this country, and we must move ahead.
Cabinet Note 7 June

Consultation - Eddy & Head

Eddy: Once Eelco got in, approach, a major change -
partnerships, strengths, willingness to negotiate -
so much better understood & straightforward in
our contact on domestic affairs. This will
we are change. Worth only on a slight.
P: We must close some Cabinet - not all ideas
coming forward & then flowing to Aydt.

FG announcement

Bush: Congress appreciate each consultation on E-2 program,
choice personal opportunities three was.

Ford: Early consultation - when proper basis being formulated.

Wald : Well, then, so consult before only much have position.

Redmon: It is tough to consult before ideas have grown there.

President has four cases, probe, partly in progress of party, with what we

Hyde-Grimes: Comment here in terms of judicial options in
order to get some report from Congress.

P: Consultation must be clearly handled. Some
Congressmen will make it for their own purposes.

We should before you drop off.

Scott: We are consultation. If you want ideas, we point
in direction of something which has a chance.

Don't make an object to consultation unless you really
oppose. But fruit unnecessary ones go on.

P: Eelco negotiation on E-2 status.

Compromise vital was very successful in getting
the moving toward corporation of Europe.

Energy problem still remains and great work.
I shall be full time by Aug. This will be
financed I think. Paycheck proves what muscles
are etc. and a one, solid, chop, making
an other problem.
Annual first - chief problem is inflation - if Wages
are distinct.
Wages not been those tough times, but we know
what to ask (with this) for this country and must
move ahead.