THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Nixon

Academician Yevgeniy Fedorov, Co-Chairman, US/USSR Joint Environmental Committee Dr. Yevgeny Chazon, Deputy Minister for Health Amb. Anatoliy F. Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador Russell E. Train, Council on Environmental

Quality

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Wednesday, November 14, 1973

11:30 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

 $\overline{/}$ There was a photo session.../

<u>Dobrynin:</u> I think they are moving very well on the environment. It is one of the best areas of our cooperation. But he can say it better.

Federov: This agreement signed by you and President Podgorny to protect the environment of the planet is now in the process of implementation. The first meeting was held last year. We are meeting now to discuss our work and to discuss plans for the future.

This work is very important. Attention to this problem in our government is very high, though not so acute as in yours.

We want to take steps to clean up our waters. Now we have better devices to clean things up. Our problems are not so sharp as they are here, but we are working hard on it. Our cooperation is going well.

I have another reason for being here. I have an arrangement with Bob White to exchange meteorological data. You have a hot line with our government; we have our own hot line to exchange data.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

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Train: We have about thirty projects and have had about twenty exchange groups. They are doing very well.

The President: Exchange in itself is good. When we can also do good work, it is doubly good.

Federov: Pollution is a global problem.

The President: Our two countries are the leaders and we must take the lead here.

One thing concerning us now is the energy problem, which is setting us back. We are searching for clean energy so we can still keep jobs, etc.

Federov: I think it is possible to do both -- to have clean energy and to have progress.

The President: Natural gas is one area where we can make steps.

Federov: I asked Mr. Train to go to Baikal. It is not as dirty as the propaganda says.

<u>Train:</u> I have been testifying before the Congress and I will take Federov with me this afternoon.

Dobrynin: On your next trip, you may want to visit Baikal.

The President: Done.

Dobrynin: It is beautiful and it is a good place to relax.

The President: We never relax. I told General Secretary Brezhnev, whatever he wishes.

In the Middle East, we had a few difficulties, and the enemies of detente said we were finished, but we have straightened it out. Everyone threw up his hands and said "we haven't made progress." Nonsense. If we hadn't held talks, we would have had real problems. We are working in all these important areas like environment.

Tell General Secretary Brezhnev that we must not allow our two peoples -- our two great strong peoples -- to come into conflict. We must talk and

argue, about all things -- the environment, European security, and the Middle East. We must go down different, but parallel roads. If we collide, no one will reach the heights, but we will go to the depths together. The environment is not so glamorous an issue, but it is very important. Dobrynin comes to me with problems -- and I came to him.

There are people in the world who are against detente. People fear condominium and we should allay those fears. But it is a fact that we both are great countries, and we must work together.

<u>Dobrynin:</u> This is Mr. Chazon. He is Deputy Minister of Health. He received an award from the American Heart Institute, where you got an award last year.

Fedorov: I have an atlas for you.

The President: I have something for you.

Dobrynin took the President aside:/

Dobrynin: I think it important that our countries move forward together on the Middle East.

The President: I am determined on it. The Israelis can't do much until after their elections, but right after that we are determined to go for a permanent settlement. No more temporary arrangements. We can't afford another war; that just gets us into trouble with each other. I can assure you we will work with you. We will work on our ally and you must work on yours.

Dobrynin: Very good. I think it is very important.

/They rejoined the group./

The President: Here are some ash trays. They work. /To Chazon:/ You surely don't use them.

 \overline{I} There were parting pleasantries and the meeting ended. \overline{I}

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