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**MEMORANDUM**

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

**SECRET/NODIS/XGDS**

**MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION**

**PARTICIPANTS:**
- President Gerald R. Ford
- Ambassador Triloki Nath Kaul of India
- Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President
- Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

**DATE AND TIME:**
Wednesday, August 21, 1974

**PLACE:**
The Oval Office
The White House

Kaul: I know your time is precious. I want to thank you for seeing me.

President: It was nice of you to come.

Kissinger: The Ambassador has been in every important post in India's Foreign Service -- Moscow, Peking, Washington.

President: How many years have you been in the Foreign Service?

Kaul: Since Independence.

President: Were you in the Independence Movement?

Kaul: We have a tradition that the Foreign Service doesn't join a political party.

President: Please give Mrs. Gandhi my regards.

Kaul: I brought a letter. It came just last night. [Tab A]

Kissinger: The Ambassador was also helpful with the North Vietnamese.

President: We appreciate it.

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**SECRET/NODIS/XGDS**

**TOP SECRET - XGDS (3)**

**CLASSIFIED BY:** Henry A. Kissinger
Kaul: It was our duty to help. We recently received a delegation from the families of the missing in action.

I want to say we appreciate Dr. Kissinger. The situation previously didn't permit much contact with your predecessor. Her letter about me is from the Prime Minister to President Nixon.

President: It was very nice about you. Secretary Kissinger has told me about the joint commission that we hope to set up.

Kaul: Our Parliament is very suspicious. They even complained that you didn't receive me the first day. The Prime Minister renews the invitation to come to India.

President: I got an invitation when I was Vice President and I was thinking of going in November. The time now has to be indefinite, but I would like to come.

Kaul: Maybe Dr. Kissinger can discuss this further when he comes. Our democracies should have good relations. Sometimes our Congressmen on both sides are outspoken. The IDA bill we feel was discriminatory against us.

President: Yes. I signed the bill but I expressed my reservations about it. I didn't approve that, but the legislation was vital.

Kaul: I was assured it could be removed on another bill.

President: We will do what we can.

Kaul: Our new President was just elected. He received over 80% in the elections.

President: What is his term?

Kaul: Five years.

Kissinger: It is a ceremonial job.

Kaul: The Prime Minister hopes for good relations with the United States. She knows that in the past there were personal and other problems, and hopes that won't interfere with our relations now.
President: We start with a fresh slate.

Kaul: We'll hope for passage of the Trade Bill. We would like to double our trade with the United States.

President: One of the first meetings I held was on this. I think we have a chance for good progress.

[The meeting then ended]
Dear Mr. President,

I am desired by my Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to convey the following message from her to you:

New Delhi,
19th August 1974

"Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 10th August 1974 which must have crossed my own message to you. I appreciate your courtesy and sharing your thoughts about the future policies of the U.S.A. and your commitment to building a strong relationship between our two countries. Indeed it has been my sincere effort ever since I became Prime Minister to improve relations with your great country. But unfortunately our policy and even our motives have as often been misunderstood in the past.

2. We admire the American heritage. The U.S. and India are functioning democracies which have a common interest in promoting world peace in which democratic institutions and values can flourish and men and women will have full opportunity to work for the fulfillment of their aspirations. We look forward to a continuing dialogue between our two Governments on matters of bilateral and international interests. Our two countries can and should work together to promote understanding cooperation and peace, especially in this part of the world.

3. As you say, there has indeed been considerable progress in our relationships in recent months. We share the wishes of the United States Government under your leadership to continue this process. May I assure you, Mr. President, of our earnestness to maintain a more positive and constructive relationship between our two countries.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest regard.

AMBASSADOR OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20th August 1974
Ken
Your time is precious, thank you for coming.
P
TK has been in very fragile condition.
P
How are things?
Ken
Same as always.
P
Were you in Berlin recently?
Ken
Yes, just last week, we discussed plans for practice.
P
Please give another try against.
Ken
I brought some new ideas just last minute.
P
TK was also helpful.
P
I appreciate.
Ken

P

Ken
Let me thank you. I still need just one.
Ken
Our meeting was successful. Even complained you didn't want me last week. PM means invitation.
P
Our last invitation when x P one thinking of you.
This reply but would like to come.
Ken
Want to know where we are.
Ken
Our emotions held strong relations. Sometimes one Carnegie on both sides are outdoes. TK bad news was communicated.
P
Yes, especially last hope of overcoming, didn't appear, like hope saw itself.
Ken
I was assumed it could be handled on another visit.
P
can send what we can.
Ken
Our next P just coming. Our 50% in bad.
Electra

P: What time?
K: 5 (??) pm
K: Game night jar
K: I'm hoping for good weather, because in past years our friends rather hate it. Hope that works out fine.
P: We start at 7:30ish.
K: That's cool for half hour. I like to double check.
P: One of the girls wrote on this. I think we have enough good stuff.