

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Ambassador Shirley Temple Black, Ambassador
to Ghana
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, November 12, 1974
12:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

Black: The last time we met was in 1967.

President: When do you go off to Ghana?

Black: The day after Thanksgiving. I had good briefings and good industry representation.

President: You did a great job in the United Nations. You'll do a great job in Ghana also. Will your family go with you?

Black: Yes. All of us but our son.

President: We have a Susan also. Bette sends her regards. She hoped to come in.

Black: She has been an inspiration. I said that in public.

President: You paved the way. It has been quite a thing. Then with Happy. Happy is coming down. She is at the point where she needs reassurance.

Black: I would be happy to talk to her. It is hard on the arms.

President: Yes. I am always pushing Bette.

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/14/74, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Reviews 3/10/04
BY: [redacted] NARA, DATE 5/6/04

Black: I almost had to resign. The medical evaluation said I was unfit for overseas duty. I asked why and they said it is the five-year rule. They don't enforce it for men who've had a heart attack. I said I would take it to the President and the country. It was also just after Mrs. Ford's operation. I gave them a week and they retracted.

President: What kind of an Embassy do we have? I have never been there.

Black: It is a nice chancery. We have 33 U.S. employees and 44 local employees. There are 22 in AID and six in USIS, and about 267 Peace Corps.

President: That is a big one.

Black: It started in Ghana. There has never been a Peace Corps problem in Ghana.

President: The Peace Corps can be very effective. There have been unfortunate examples which gave it a black eye with the Congress. I think sending the technically oriented people -- bricklayers and so on -- is good, so they aren't being swamped with kids.

Black: The average age of the volunteers in Ghana is 27, which is older than the overall average. I am pleased to go to Black Africa because I think we are not doing enough to hold out our hands to them.

President: Is it mostly technical assistance or grants?

Black: There are projects like roadbuilding, and so on. I don't really know.

President: How is the economy?

Black: It's not so good since the oil crisis. They have one oil well of their own, but import from Nigeria and the Soviet Union.

Their major product is cocoa. The price is high but it doesn't go to the growers. Africa has the raw materials and this is the time when we should try to keep countries from nationalizing. Is that right?

President: We vigorously oppose that, especially when they do it without adequate compensation. I understand the nationalist impulse, but we hope to avoid it, because I think private enterprise can do a better job of producing and marketing. Tell them that. But in any case, there must be adequate compensation if there is nationalization.



P/Sbrinby Temple Black 12³⁰ pm
12 Nov 74

B Last time we met was in '67. Photos of me given to W.H. Pflanz.

P when do you go.

B Day after Thanksgiving. Had pool digging & yard work by speculation. Ston hat, Aluminum etc.

P You did part job in UN. You will in Geneva also. Family go.

B Yes. All but ~~the~~ same.

P We have a ~~son~~ Susan also. Better sends me 1000. She forgot to come in.

B She has an inspiration. I said that in public.

P You paid a way. It has grants or thing & them w/ Happy. Happy coming down. She at point where she needs measures.

B I am happy to talk to her. Hand on arms.

P Yes. I always picking better.

B I almost had to resign. Medical work will profit for overseas. I asked why & they said it's 5 yr rule. (Not for men w/ heart attack) I said I would take it to Pres & country. It was also part of the Pres F operation. I gave them a work & they extracted.

P What kind of embassy head had. I was here there.

B It was Chamney. We have 33 + 44 not. 22 in AID + 6 in USIS, about 267 Plan exp.

P That big area.

B Started in China. There been a plan exp from China.

P Plan exp can be very effective. There have been infrastructure projects where it black eye w/ cong. I think a tech oriented people - bricklayers etc is good so they aren't harmed of kids.

B Change in China is 7, older than average. I planned to go back to Yunnan because I think are not doing enough to hold out some hands to them.



P Is it mostly to assist on grants.

B Road building etc. I don't really know.

P How is economy

B Not so good since oil crisis. They have 1 well
M from Nigeria + S.D.

Nigeria paid to cross. Price high but not to grow.
Africa has a raw materials + there is time when we should

try to keep countries from waiting. Is that right?

P We are primarily open, esp w/o ~~adverse~~ ~~unpleasant~~ ~~unpleasant~~
Unpleasant market signals, but hope to ensure
it becomes a thick private sector. Much better
job of prod + marketing. Tell them, but in
any case, adequate representation.

