MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE AND TIME: Friday, December 6, 1974
12:00 noon

PLACE: The Cabinet Room
The White House

SUBJECT: President Ford's Meeting with the President's
Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

President: Sorry I am late. I had a good session with Chancellor
Schmidt. Thank you for coming. I remember the meeting we had in
the ROB. I have been impressed with your work and I know you will
continue your outstanding work.

Adm. Anderson: Unfortunately, they still are fumbling along with that.

President: We have an unfortunate situation with intelligence and it's
standing with the public. This group can take this highly important
matter and give an objective analysis.

There is one area where we could use some help. Our overseas in­
telligence collection facilities we need to look at. What are your
thoughts on this?

Adm. Anderson: We have been working on economic intelligence. You need
to be able to project, not just react. We had a good Middle East review
yesterday. We met with Secretary Kissinger yesterday. [ ]

The next meeting we will examine
our ability to verify strategic forces.

President: That will be an important part of the SALT II agreement.
I would encourage you to support the agreement. It is not a partisan
issue. Any help you can give would be appreciated, as you travel
around the country and talk to people.
Leo Cherne: It is a good agreement. If Colby’s charts could be sanitized and used, it would be very helpful.

Dr. Teller: You know I have been opposed to arms reduction because I am suspicious. But I am impressed by Vladivostok. I can and will support it. I have one reservation—which I don’t plan to air in public.

This is not directly associated with the agreement. And I am astonished with the progress which has been made.

President: Don’t we have a strong program in this area?

Dr. Foster: I don’t think so. Arms control agreements make it harder to get from the Congress what we need to provide for our security. Vladivostok limited their capacity to move, but it probably increased our problems in getting the funding.

President: I will recommend whatever is needed. Congress, though, might come to the wrong conclusion.

Dr. Foster: It is important to explain the realities to the Congress.

President: I will. Is there anything else?

Adm. Anderson: We have had excellent cooperation from the intelligence community.

Mr. Gray: Our overseas visits are important.

Adm. Anderson: Someone mentioned the importance of measures which could be considered economic warfare. Maybe we need structural changes in the intelligence board— to have one group for military-political intelligence and another for economic-industrial.

President:
Dr. Land: I am not sure we are making the best use of... Security is a problem. We would need a filter so the material could be made available. There are incipient opportunities which we can pursue which we haven't because it hasn't been needed.

Dr. Foster: It would be good if the intelligence community would give the best case (on critical questions) for each possibility, instead of just the worst case. For example, they should tell us, yes, there will be a war; no there won't. To complete the picture.

President: Thank you. It was good to see you again.
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