MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, January 4, 1975  
9:40 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
The White House

Kissinger: What is happening is worse than in the days of McCarthy.  
You will end up with a CIA that does only reporting, and not operations.  
He has turned over to the FBI the whole of his operation. He has offered  
to resign and I refused. It is not my prerogative, but I said not until you  
are proved guilty of criminal conduct.

The President: I agree.

Kissinger: Helms said all these stories are just the tip of the iceberg.  
If they come out, blood will flow. For example, Robert Kennedy per­  
sonally managed the operation on the assassination of Castro.

[He described some of the other stories.]

I told him Buchen would warn him and he won’t say anything incriminating.

The President: I know Dick Helms and think very highly of him.

Kissinger: The Chilean thing -- that is not in any report. That is sort  
of blackmail on me.
The President: What can we do? We can get Griswold, Lemnitzer, Froney, Reagan, Jack Connor, Shannon, Dillon.

Kissinger: You might think of Rusk. This will get very rough and you need people around who know the Presidency, and the national interest. What Colby has done is a disgrace.

The President: Should we suspend him?

Kissinger: No, but after the investigation is over you could move him and put in someone of towering integrity.

When the FBI has a hunting license into the CIA, this could end up worse for the country than Watergate.

The President: Would Rusk have known any of this stuff?

Kissinger: Why don't you ask him?

[Discussed the Moorer spying incident and what he did to protect the institution of the JCS.]

[Rumsfeld enters to talk about Rusk.]

Kissinger: [Discusses some of the legislative restrictions.]

The President: [Talks to Rusk.]

[Tries to call Dave Packard.]

[Buchanan and Marsh come in.]

[The Blue Ribbon announcement is reviewed.]
K: What happens around the meat area, if we

wish to get people to leave? We've

seen this work in the past.

P: Some turned around, but the future of

this area is not clear.

K: There seems to be a strong desire to

extend the area, but any possibility of

a concrete structure would be

paramount.

P: Agree.

K: Perhaps we could use some idea on the

future of this area.

P: The current thing is that it may

extend in that sort of direction.

K: What can we do? Generally, in a similar

area, friendly, agreeable, etc.,

P: You might think of this as a sort of

extension and not just a simple

area.

K: Should we expect this?

P: It seems that often important areas

will have some sort of

extension.

K: This could lead to more people being

interested.
P breaks down, beyond any of this stuff.
Is this going to be a game changer? How do we do this?
(Discussed some key points with what, if anything, the Bill will affect or substitute for it).
(Concerns about knapsack)
I (Discuss some of the key issues)
P (Talks to Frank)
(Tries to call Frank)
(Buys or drives some in)
For their benefit announcement is renewed.