MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald Ford
The Cabinet

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, January 8, 1975
11:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room
The White House

SUBJECT: Secretary Kissinger's Presentation on Foreign Policy

[The Cabinet meeting began with discussions by Mr. Rumsfeld
of the reorganization of the Executive Office of the President, by
Mr. Marsh of the Congressional situation, and by Dr. Greenspan
of the economic situation].

President: Now, Henry will project the Foreign Policy problems for 1975.

Kissinger: In Cyprus, we now have political talks started and with good will
we should get something in three to four months.

In the Middle East the possibility for moves still exists, and if we
succeed, the chances of war will be greatly reduced and we can go to
Geneva with a situation where our friends are having a success.

In our relations with the Soviets, we have a problem. The Soviet Union
has had a massive shock over the MFN and Ex-Im legislation. Brezhnev's
opponents can quote our '72 statements about economic relations to make
him look like a fool. Obviously, there is a reevaluation going on. And to
the extent that a deterioration with the Soviet Union takes place it will also
with the PRC. This makes the Vladivostok hearings crucial, so they are
not turned into another trade bill fiasco.

I am afraid the Soviet Union will turn down the trade bill, but don't
talk about it.
But there is no deterioration of political relations with the Soviet Union.

Relations with the PRC are on course. There was not much movement on Taiwan, because we have little to gain from it. Our relations are basically doing well.

So much for the traditional foreign policy areas.

We are now facing for the whole world the situation which President Truman faced with Europe. There is a disintegration of old world patterns -- it represents a danger and a great opportunity as new patterns become put together. In the past few years our relations with Europe have been very difficult. The Europeans have become provincial; only our efforts are seeking to restore to them a sense of competence to manage their own destinies.

A resurgent American economy will help us more in the world than anything we can do.

We have an historic opportunity to help construct a new political and economic world system. We have been making substantial progress in the whole energy/oil field. If we can move equally on food and raw materials, we may look back on this period on the structural side as having been an historic period of American foreign policy.
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Dear [Name],

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to discuss some issues that have been brought to my attention.

Firstly, regarding the [issue], I believe we need to take immediate action. I understand there are some preliminary steps that must be taken, but I am concerned about the delays.

Secondly, the [other issue] is also a matter of concern. I have received reports that suggest we are not making progress as expected.

I would like to suggest that we review the current strategy and consider alternative approaches. Perhaps we could involve [interested parties] in the decision-making process.

Please let me know your thoughts on these matters. I am looking forward to your response.

Best regards,

[Your Name]
A recent poll shows that most Americans
are now concerned about the lack of
religion in our society. We cannot
continue to ignore the importance of
religion in our country. We must work
together to ensure that religion is
protected as a fundamental right and
not undermined by secular forces.