MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Lloyd Miller, U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Eric Eustace Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
George Chambers, Minister of Finance
Victor McIntyre, Ambassador to the United States

DATE AND TIME: Friday, February 21, 1975
2:34 - 3:12 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

[The press were admitted briefly to take photographs and then departed.]

The President: I was telling Secretary Kissinger that I was in the Navy in 1942 and we went on a shakedown cruise to Trinidad. We trained there for three weeks. We went ashore one day.

It is nice to have you here. It is nice to have you.

Prime Minister Williams: It is nice of you to invite us. We had to adjust our program somewhat.

The President: As far as I know our relations are good and we have no bilateral problems.
Prime Minister Williams: Except we never know what you will do with your trade policy.

The President: We were upset too at the trade bill.

Prime Minister Williams: You should adopt our system.

The President: Can you control your parliament?

Prime Minister Williams: Of course, otherwise you are out. But they say it is easier to go to the country than to come back from it.

The President: How many people are there in your legislature?

Prime Minister Williams: 36 in one house and 23 in the other.

Secretary Kissinger: You look like you are in complete control.

Prime Minister Williams: It depends on what you mean. What are you doing on the petro dollars?

Secretary Kissinger: We have our own problems there. We aren't harassing you, are we?

Prime Minister Williams: No, we don't belong to OPEC.

Secretary Kissinger: But you follow OPEC pricing.

Prime Minister Williams: Yes.

The President: Then how does the trade bill affect you?

Prime Minister Williams: Just the principle of it. We would have to vote with Venezuela if you can't solve it.

I almost met you in Tokyo. I was there just ahead of you.

The President: It was a good trip, substantively, and the weather. The Japanese said the weather was a good omen.

Prime Minister Williams: Then my last one was a bad omen -- it was terrible.
Secretary Kissinger: Are you and the Japanese trading partners?

Prime Minister Williams: No, we are just building it. There are investment possibilities. There may be a steel plant, etc.

General Scowcroft: The Prime Minister has visited China and Indonesia also.

The President: When were you in China?

Prime Minister Williams: Six days ago and six weeks ago. If you go in February, don't go to Shanghai and Canton.

The President: I was there in July. It was hot. Are you establishing trade relations?

Prime Minister Williams: We are beginning. They have a lot of things we want and we think they can use our fertilizer.

The President: Aren't transport prices high?

Prime Minister Williams: We may make a barter arrangement.

The President: Are you self-sufficient in food?

Prime Minister Williams: No. We import, mostly from the United States. Costs are very high. Fortunately we have the money. But for how long? We are against your policy, Dr. Kissinger.

Secretary Kissinger: You are against lower prices?

Prime Minister Williams: No. We are against crude oil prices not connected with other commodities.

Secretary Kissinger: We are prepared to index, but at lower prices.

Prime Minister Williams: What is the price?

Secretary Kissinger: We haven't thought it through.

The President: What is your production?
Prime Minister Williams: 200,000 barrels. But we have new offshore ports. It will be difficult because of the depth.

Minister Chambers: It is not so bad as the North Sea, where they have 50-foot waves.

Prime Minister Williams: But we occasionally have hurricanes.

The President: Do you have them frequently?

Prime Minister Williams: No, but we did last year.

We found an interesting thing in Indonesia -- a floating fertilizer factory -- two ships, one for ammonia and one for urea.

Secretary Kissinger: Why?

Prime Minister Williams: Apparently because of land space. It attracts us because we have a land problem. I am thinking of having a refinery at sea and a 200-mile limit.

Secretary Kissinger: He thinks big! That would give you a slice of Mexico wouldn't it. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Williams: We are serious about it. It would reduce the heavy infrastructure.

Minister Chambers: But it also gives employment.

Prime Minister Williams: We have only 60 miles by 40, with one million people.

The President: Is it growing?

Prime Minister Williams: No, it is declining. We have a very successful family planning program.

Could we get international fund financing for our offshore program?

Secretary Kissinger: I see imperialist tendencies. You put a rig out and extend the 200 miles beyond that.

Prime Minister Williams: We will be weighing in at the Law of the Sea Conference. The 200-mile limit is in parliament.
Dear Mrs. Williams,

I diverged towards Hong Kong on 4/2. Went on three-hour train & returned. We signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which I sent to your house. We were there to share your wishes.

We discussed something we had to adjust our vigilance to, which is the role China is playing in the international market.

As far as I know, sanctions are good and the Chinese are taking part.

I doubt no one knows what you will deal with your trade policy.

I do not expect to make any cuts.

You should adopt some cuts.

Can you explain your policy?

Of course, I trust your own ideas. But they may not have to go to a country that is not the format.

How many people?

W. 36 in our policy.

K. You look like the one in complete control.

W. Depends what you mean. Political, we?

K. I don't know how your own post is.

W. We don't have to know you, as we?

K. No, we don't belong to OPEC.

W. But your fellow OPEC signing.

K. Yes.

W. From how close the Middle East affect us.

K. Just the principle that we would have to.

W. Just in case you want to buy it.

K. I don't want you to keep it, since they find enough.

K. But, since a good trip, substantially ended.

P. 21 FEB 75
Spalding/Rhodar - Tongi to K.C.

Joye said: we are a good win.

W. I don't see what we are all about, we think.
K. I am not sure, it's been hard.
W. May be we have a little bit of time to work.
K. I am not sure.
W. I was there in July, it was hot. As you can see,
K. Did you see them?

A., Barry. They had a lot of trips and we went
K. What can we do on our part?
W. Can't transport prices high?
K. May be some arrangement.
W. Are you self-sufficient in food?
K. We are not. We have mostly from U.S. Costs are very high.
W. Particularly our house money, but for how long.
K. We against your policy.
W. We against your policy.
K. We against your policy.
W. We against his where and price not committed.
K. We are muscles.
W. We prepared to supply, but at lower price.
K. What price?
W. We have said that I think.
K. We have said that I think.
W. What is production?
K. 2000, available, but we have 5000 offshore plant.
W. It will be different for depth.
K. We have to take it out of the sea, we are not here.
W. But we occasionally have hurricanes.
K. From the house frequently.
W. Yes, but did last year.
W: We found an interesting thing in Saskatchewan, a floating fish farm, a shrimp, and an ammonia treatment plant.

K: Why?

A: Apparently because of land space. It attracts me because we have land, part of it in the sea and 200 miles limit.

K: That he thinks big. That would give you a whole fishery wouldn't it? (laughs)

W: We think about it, it would reduce a heavy

unemployment.

W: We have only 50,000 by 90, we should.

P: Growing?

W: No, looking. We have a very successful family planning program, could we get it with fund financing from our off

these guys?

K: The implicit assumption. You put a trip

and 300 miles, we make beyond that?

W: We will be very glad in all cases, expensive 200

mile limit is non-palatable.