**MEMORANDUM** 

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## UNCLASSIFIED

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Mark Evans Austad, U.S. Ambassador to Finland

Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday - February 27, 1975

5:45 - 6:07 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

The White House

President: When do you leave for Finland?

Austad: On the 7th of March. I want to thank you very deeply for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

<u>President:</u> You will do a great job. You may have some excitement in June or July.

Austad: Yes, 37 heads of state!

<u>President:</u> I was there once with the Interparliamentary Union. I met another fine man, I can't remember his name. I think it was Kekkonen.

Austad: I am going to do some different things. I want to do a film for National Geographic.

I have a commitment for some of our labor leaders to come over. Their labor unions are split.

We want to increase our trade. That is the only way we can show the flag.

The Soviets play this like a violin. They have a major figure visiting every week, and we never have anyone.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES TOP SECRET XGDS (3)

BY W. NARA. DATE STOP GLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

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The Embassy is yours, Mr. President, if you want to stay there.

President: Thank you.



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