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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:	 President Ford Elliot Richardson, Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, Great Britain Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
DATE AND TIME:	Thursday - February 27, 1975 10:13 - 10:31 a.m.
PLACE:	The Oval Office The White House

[The press was admitted for photographs, while there was small talk about the President's golf match and tennis. The press was then dismissed]

President: Everything went well on the Hill with your confirmation.

<u>Richardson</u>: There was no substance discussed. There was some talk that the Ambassador shouldn't have to spend out of pocket to keep up the Embassy.

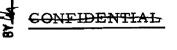
President: You should have that inscribed.

<u>Richardson</u>: I told Clark and Cederberg I might be back to them.

President: Did Annenberg spend a lot?

Richardson: He spent about \$250,000 a year out of his pocket.

<u>Kissinger</u>: He entertained lavishly. We had a little problem getting him to invite non-titled people. [Laughter]



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President: You had better do better.

<u>Richardson:</u> I will change that. I want to get to the labor unions as well as the Labour politicians.

President: Is it good that Maudling is getting back in [the Shadow Cabinet] ?

<u>Kissinger</u>: He is a nice man. He's a friend of ours. Heath is the only post-war British leader who was indifferent to the U.S. The present government has emotional ties to us, as do Maulding and Mrs. Thatcher. She is a great gal, but she is not experienced at all in foreign policy.

<u>Richardson</u>: I met her when I was at HEW. She had the Education Department. She's very crisp and intelligent.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Right now the Conservative Party is 4 points ahead in the polls. She says she is determined to make a choice acceptable.

President: That wage increase there was dreadful.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Thirty-three percent, and that on top of 18% the year before. It is okay for Elliot to meet with the labor leaders, but many of them are Communist.

<u>Richardson</u>: The question is how I can go about strengthening the good labor leaders and understanding the movement and the people.

<u>Kissinger</u>: The unions finance the Labour Party and there is always a fight at the Labour Party Conference for Wilson to keep control and prevent disastrous programs.

President: It seems to me they are gambling heavily on North Sea oil.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Most experts think it is so heavily mortgaged that it will be the late 80's before it really helps.

<u>Richardson:</u> That is another area where it is not clear what I can do, but I need to understand the problems and their point of view.

<u>President:</u> I hear they are trying to drive a hard bargain with the companies and some of them are resisting participation.



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<u>Richardson</u>: Yes, but I think if they were assured the contract would last through the 80's they would be okay. But many of them have been working hard since the early 60's and the contract terms have eroded badly. The don't have much faith.

President: Do those contracts have some binding nature as in the U.S.?

<u>Richardson:</u> That is a good question. We discussed how you protect liquidating costs to protect against a new government coming in.

<u>President:</u> I notice the Mexican government is putting feelers out -their find seems to be expanding.

When are you leaving?

<u>Richardson</u>: I am going by way of the Bahamas. I am going to London on Monday.

I appreciate this opportunity to be of service to your Administration and I hope to be of service. Despite all the speculation, I do what I do for the sake of the job, not because of any future prospects.

<u>President:</u> You handled Agronsky very well. I want you to go there and handle it in the strong high-level way you have at State, HEW and Justice. No one knows the future.

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