MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Republican Congressional Leadership Meeting
and Five Cabinet Members

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, March 18, 1975
8:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

SUBJECTS: Cyprus; Indochina

Cyprus

Senator Scott: Because Hartman and McCloskey were unable to give us the latest information on possible compromises, we decided to wait until Secretary Kissinger returns to talk with us.

The President: The situation gets more dim all the time. The Greeks aren't going to get the Turkish troops out of Cyprus. And if we say we will keep the pressure on until they evacuate, you can see their reluctance to move.

Senator Scott: Our debate took place under the eyes of two invitees from the House who are part of the Greek lobby and absolutely intransigent. It's like the man going down the road. He says "I don't know where I'm going, but I know I'm late because everybody else is coming back."

[There was some discussion of the tax bill and agriculture. The President then turned to Secretary Schlesinger to brief on Indochina.]

Indochina

Secretary Schlesinger: The situation in Cambodia is mixed. It is better than last year around Phnom Penh and better than last week. The biggest
problem is the erosion of morale about the lapse of US support and the withdrawal of foreign embassies. The situation along the Mekong is deteriorating.

Let me turn to Vietnam. Until last weekend, it was the judgment of the intelligence community that the North Vietnamese would chip away this year and not mount a major offensive. Two things happened: The government reviewed its supply situation and decided to shorten its defensive lines. They are withdrawing from the Central Highlands -- they were not forced out. The second flows from this -- the North Vietnamese, seeing this opportunity, may make a major attack this year.

In Thailand, two governments in a row have said they would ask US forces to withdraw. They are always a sensitive weather-vane.

The President: The Philippines also are indicating they may reevaluate their policy. It is the best indication of the truth of the domino theory.

Congressman Broomfield: Bipartisan foreign policy has completely broken down in our committee. The only way to get the bill out of the committee appears to be to embrace fully the amendment and not ask for more funds.

Senator Scott: That letter was dropped into our midst and disposed of any chance to do anything but the Hamilton amendment.

The President: We were asked for such a letter. I approved it personally but I can't accept or support a cutoff. The letter was phrased just to get it to the floor. If the Congress wants to vote it down and take the onus. We will not give in on the cutoff.

Senator Scott: The Democrats also made hay with the $21 million that was suddenly found.

Congressman Broomfield: Do I understand there is no chance of modifying the letter?

The President: I haven't talked yet with Schlesinger and Scowcroft, but I can't accept a cutoff. It is wrong.

Congressman Stephens: How long can they last?
Secretary Schlesinger: Their ammo will last through April, but the morale erodes every day.

Senator Scott: The unspoken assumption in the Congress is that the Government will fall.

Secretary Schlesinger: The North Vietnamese dispatches now characterize the US Government as impotent and they are acting on that basis.
Scott, because Hattaway and the Cheshy were unable to gain
the latest information on possible armistice, and explained to us it Hattaway to talk w/me.

The situation gets more grim all the time. The Greeks
can't seem to get T large unit of Cappara. And if
we keep up will keep pressure on until they
agree to open some of their settlements to
Scott. Can we make the plane on schedule and urge a meeting
from Greece to see part of Greek body and also
likely witnesses.

 Federic went down the coast.
 I don't know where I'm going but I know
for last because every body else is coming back.

(For Bill the war)

(Appreciation)

Shaping at an Ecuadorian meal. Better than last year.

P.I & better than last year. Superb job's service of

unusual about us suggests a Civil war of admissions. The

it along a track in eliminating.

We will start weekend, at a point if not early that

Navy would stop away this year not major offensive. 2

things happened. 1st. Naval to supply set French to

available for off-line boats. They are retired from combat

in-line were not found out. The 2nd phase this

Navy setting time of patience may make a change attack.

This way.

For them 2 start back and they would ask us favor to

attain. They are always an offensive weapon.

1. The Philippines also indicate. They may receive

favorable. The best mechanism for growth for domestic...
Bureaud: Bureaud's family pets are frequently taken down into sea water. Only way is to put them out of

Tutu & Tutu has to be removed. Fully a consistent acc. of the family

Sco. "A short letter was brought written on black & gray

Rising chance to be anything but a Hamilton

monument

P. We were asked for such a letter, they paid it

personally but I cannot accept or suggest a reply.

The letter was paid off, just right at the port.

If a Anglo wants to bet it doesn't take care.

We will not give in on the entire.

Sco. The Dur at also made 50,000 a few million-

Bennett's do understand that is no chance of matching

the letter

P. I have told a lot of /Sed & Sea but & can't

accept a cutoff. It is wrong.

Stephen: How long can they last

Sidles, Commer then April. don't break under any day.

Sco. The supposition assumption in one person is that

a boat will last.

Sidles The 1921 objects were characters & not

unimportant and they are acting on that basis.