MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with the Cabinet

DATE & TIME: Wednesday - July 16, 1975
11:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

[There is discussion of Hathaway being in the hospital.]

President: The Indochina refugee program is being transferred from
State to HEW. I will stop at Camp Chafee in August. Please be helpful
with your people on loan so we can get the job done. If we don't get it
handled expeditiously it will be a festering problem.

[There was discussion of the regulatory agency meeting which took place
last week.]

[Jim Cannon and Rod Hills gave a briefing.]

Marsh: The response to Congressional correspondence is too slow. We
need a seven-day turnaround time, starting with when the response request
leaves Friedersdorf.

[There was discussion of this subject.]

President: I would like Jim to say something about the controversy over
Berbera. I claimed in a press conference last fall that the Soviet Union
had a base there. They denied it; we showed our photos, and the Somalis
asked some Congressmen to visit.

Schlesinger: The Soviets have had a tracking station there for some time.
Recently our photo reconnaissance showed clear evidence of major
construction, including the largest airfield on the Indian Ocean and a
missile storage and handling facility. We took some releasable photos.
The upshot was that a group of reporters and eight Congressmen went
there. [He described the visits] The upshot has been that American
credibility is upheld and those who opposed Diego Garcia on the faith of Soviet statements are in disarray. Diego Garcia should therefore pass. It also indicates the success of verification by National Technical Means. Heretofore, many have argued that we could not rely on it without having on-site inspection.

President: We do have a reliable technical surveillance capability. The Congressmen have verified the reliability of that technical means through this trip. The important point is our verification capability has been enhanced.

The last item is the status of our energy program. [He described decontrol program being sent up today.]

Zarb: [Described decontrol of oil and natural gas.]

Butz: As the oldest Cabinet member, Mr. President, I want to say we are very pleased at the announcement of your candidacy. I hope all of us will tilt a little -- within proportion -- in our department programs to help the President's program. [He tells a joke about the tillie-millie tilt.]
P. (Stumbling over language)

Weakened after a year spent in France, I arrived at Chappel in Aug. Please be kind to my young people and have them go out to dinner. I am not well and don't feel it should last too long. Extensive problems.

(Regarding my ongoing health issues, please extend my apologies)

Week. Response to Copy. Cape is too slow. We need a

I think turnaround time starting of when a response report

(Oops was)

P. I would like to say something about the

Carreynal and Berling. I claimed last fall they should have been there. They denied it; we denied photo, and

Samuel said Carrion must meet.

[Signature]

Sure hard had thinking what to do in time. Recently got our photo once stated that it costs

a major construction, and largest off on Racine

Bunker in existing structure and building facilities. We took some pictures. Upshot was

a & Carrion said yes (decided inside).

Upshot has been that US Credibility is.unsqueeze that we appeal to Garcia & our faith of our statements as in carrying. Did you hear? Pat.

(Handwritten note: Some information in NRM)

Hence I may have agreed we should not rely

on it or's also-made a slight correction.

P. We do have a schedule & inertime

Carreynal. The Carrion has a unified c.

(Checklist of things to bring, possibly)

[Signature]

East (Revised direction of aid & with key)
Deputy Acting Cabinet Member, I want to say we are very pleased at announcement of your candidacy. I hope all of us will take a little bit of responsibility in our efforts for a better & Free pop. (Sign here)

[Signature]

Mr. Robert [partial signature]
I would vote

[Signature]