MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: 
President Gerald Ford
Congressman Dan Rostenkowski (D. -Ill.)
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: 
Tuesday, July 22, 1975
3:00 p.m.

PLACE: 
The Oval Office
The White House

The President: How was your trip to Poland?

Rostenkowski: Great. I even have taken low-key credit for getting you
there. I think it is great your going into that area.

If you are going to do anything, get out and around in the city. The people
just love us. I drove to Poznan, with an American Flag on the car. They
are interested in eliminating trade barriers. Olszewski, Minister of Trade,
said this is the first 30-year period in Polish history without a war. He
said that you and President Nixon have many warm friends in Poland. They
need our help. We can provide them with things the Soviet Union can't and
they use that against the Soviet Union when the Soviet Union wants them to
take a stand against the United States.

The President: We traveled in Poland under the IPU in 1959. We had a
friend in the Embassy who drove us around for ten days. I was impressed
with Gierek. I saw the booming trade figures. I think that is good for us
and them, to give them a little independence from the Soviet Union.

Rostenkowski: Gierek told me when his family had to leave they almost
came here instead of going to France as he did. Many American Poles are
anti-Communist and don't want us to recognize a Communist government.
But that does no good.

Gierek pleaded with me to get you to come.

DECLASIFIED
E.O. 12868, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY ______________________ NARA DATE 12/3/2000
The President: We are going to Warsaw Monday, and on Tuesday to Krakow.

Rostenkowski: Krakow is really the beautiful section of the country.

The President: We stayed in the old Delux Hotel. It was ten years after the war. We were welcome then, but I am sure things have changed dramatically.

Rostenkowski: It you had 15 minutes for a film. They rebuilt the old section of Warsaw. Their feeling of identity is unbelievable.

The President: The big building the Soviet Union built was the newest building when I was there. The Poles didn't like it; they made fun of it.

I saw Mayor Daley in Chicago and had a drink with him. I think we have a good working relationship.

Rostenkowski: He is a good guy. Nixon supported him and Daley didn't forget it.

The President: Can you help me on the Turkish thing?

Rostenkowski: I don't think I can get more than two with me.

The President: I wouldn't do anything to hurt the Greeks. This is important not only to the Turks but the Greeks.

Rostenkowski: What I hear is, "We believe the President but can you trust Kissinger?" Everyone thinks he is so dominant, but at that breakfast there was no doubt who was in charge.
Dear [Name],

It was great to hear from you again and to learn about your trip to Sweden. I think it is great that you are studying the Swedish culture and language. It is really interesting how different cultures can influence each other.

Swedish culture is very unique and it is fascinating to learn about their history and traditions. I have always been interested in studying different cultures and languages. I think it is important to have a deep understanding of other cultures to better appreciate our own.

I have been reading a lot about Swedish literature and music lately. There are so many great authors and musicians who have contributed to Swedish culture. I think it is important to support local artists and I have been trying to buy more books and music from Sweden.

I am really looking forward to visiting Sweden someday and experiencing the culture for myself. It would be great to see the landscapes and try the local food.

Best regards,

[Your Name]