MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:
President Gerald R. Ford
George Shultz
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:
Wednesday, September 17, 1975
3:21 - 3:42 p.m.

PLACE:
The Oval Office

SUBJECTS:
Shultz's visit to Europe: Economic Summit

Shultz: I met with Schmidt for about 10 hours, and Giscard. Wilson thinks the burden should be on those who say there shouldn't be a meeting, not vice versa. They are interested in a personal and deep discussion rather than a very broad one.

President: What participants will there be? What about Italy and Canada?

Shultz: They are thinking just of the five. They asked about Canada and I said it is our biggest trading partner. I would leave Italy to the Europeans. If they want it out, I would support that. Italy would just clutter the landscape. With three people per country, that is about the maximum for the useful meeting. I said we needed the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Treasury. They agreed on three, but just who, they want to think about. On timing, I said it had to be this year. It looks like mid-November is about the latest possible.

Kissinger: It almost would have to be before Thanksgiving.

Shultz: On the location . . .

President: From a political point of view, it would be better to have it here. I am getting criticism from being out of Washington, but it is not serious.
Kissinger: I doubt if Giscard would be willing to come here.

Schultz: If it happens, it would mark the reentry of France into the councils.

Kissinger: I don't say it has to be in France, but with Giscard coming here next year, it would be tough.

Schultz: I tried the U.S. on them. Wilson will come of course; Schmidt is a bit reluctant and Giscard is negative.

President: We could have a joint announcement so there isn't one invitor. Let's get the schedule cleared.

Schultz: I need someone within the government to work with. Henry suggested Sonnenfeldt.

Kissinger: It is interesting how much time they spent with George. It shows how seriously they take it.
S. I went to Schmidt for about 10 hours. They were good.

P. We think there should be a meeting in some time.

S. They are interested in a personal appeal to some

P. What participating? Only Canada.

S. They thinking of it. I think we should meet

P. We haven't agreed yet. If we can't meet it means

S. We have.

P. Yes, we will meet for lunch. If it

S. I think we should meet for lunch. Things are

P. But just when they want to think about.

S. Continuing. I think it should be this year. It

P. Not until next year.

S. Well, we have about a little bit of

K. Almost would have to be before Thanksgiving.

S. Our budget (Fourth Trimester)

P. From a political party view, it is better to have it

S. I am heading for the end of the period.

P. But it is difficult.

K. Perhaps General would do better in case here.

S. If it happens, it would mean a reduction of Fred

P. I don't agree. It sounds a political decision.

K. I don't think it has to be for Finance, but for

S. Perhaps the tax. Will we, well, come, Schmidt

P. It is because there is a great announcement that

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