MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Senator Gale W. McGee
Congressman Donald M. Fraser
Congressman John Buchanan
Max Friedersdorf, Counsellor to the President
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Tuesday - November 4, 1975
2:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECTS: Byrd Amendment; IFAD

President: Well, I guess we are supposed to talk about the Byrd Amendment.

Fraser: We made a run at it and appreciate the letter of support by the Administration, but we fell 20 votes short. The problem is the perception of the U.S. failing to live up to its obligation. We are very restrained in Southern Africa and here is one place we have a legal obligation. We would like to discuss how we could mobilize the strength to repeal it.

McGee: The symbolism of this issue up at the UN is the strong issue. The legal case is clear, but when we have this around our necks it is difficult to split the 77.

Fraser: [Hands out list]

McGee: Some specialty steel companies oppose repeal, but Labor has generally swung around.
Buchanan: I don't know whether we can bring it up and win. I don't know whether a maximum effort would have won, but it certainly would take that. I must say that especially DOD but Commerce and Treasury also couldn't have been worse in their testimony had they been opposed. They were less than enthusiastic. That is water over the dam. Now I don't know if it can be done, and if we fail again it would be worse than not trying.

President: I would start from this point of view. It is very hard to turn people around in the same session on the same issue. How about the 37 absentees?

Fraser: They split about even.

President: If you could get the "pro" absentees back and get some negatives to stay away, you might make it.

Buchanan: There are other issues -- like Turkish aid -- which diluted the White House effort. I would like to know we were going to win before we try.

McGee: There is no time bind. The President has a point -- we might be better to wait until next year.

President: Max, run a check on the 37. [Discussion of the names]

Buchanan: Rhodes is strongly against repeal -- as is Michel.

President: Did you catch flak in your district?

Buchanan: I really caught hell -- I still won in '74 but I took a lot of flak. You can make a strong argument on national security if you don't know the facts. We could end up with chrome in very unfriendly hands.

President: There is no backing off of my support. Kissinger will stand fast and Max will check that list.

McGee: The Senate won't start it again. They are afraid of being left by the House again.

Fraser: We could redraft the bill to leave it to the President's discretion on the basis of national interest and security.
President: That might be attractive.
McGee: Some might argue against that on grounds of power of the President.
President: It might be a good idea for the President to have that flexibility.
We'll go ahead on checking it.
Fraser: Can you test this alternate approach? It gives people a chance to shift positions.
President: Let's look into it. Gale, you wanted to mention IFAD.
McGee: There is some snipping away going on in the Senate. I am not sure that we may not have some problems. Just wanted to let you know.
P: Well, I guess we supposed to talk about Biafra.

F: We are a small part of the aggregation, but the support is difficult, particularly with the United States.

M: The resolution of this issue may be at the United Nations, but the issue is complex. The resolution is clear, but when we heard the war was over we asked it is still to split.

F: (needs a list)

M: Some specially stops companies' war report, don't have their reports, serving annual

F: (needs a letter)

M: I don't know whether we can buy it at any time. I don't know whether a series of reports would have come but the certainly would take that, I can't tell you that. Don't want government. They couldn't have been worse in telling that the report appeared. They were dishonest and dishonest. That were not clear. How I don't know if it can be fixed. If we fixed it there would be worse than nothing.

P: I should start from this point of view. It is very hard to turn people around.
session on e-mail issues (Your chart - 5)

observes

F They split about now,
P

If you could get a "pre" exchange back or just some indication of change, you might

imagine

B There was no discussion - Dick, Frank and -

which child at 9 N effect, I would like to know

how are you to win boisterly

M There is no form book. I have a point - we

may put the battle at eight to eight plan

P

Max, visa a chérie 17, (returning in mind)

Here is a young against kyd - as is usual

P Did your catch flex in your Detroit

B I really caught hell - detail was in 14 but

I take a lot of flex. You can make a thing

among to one with -- if you don't have

casts. We could do any of Charlie is

any one of you think

P

These are to be held by me - a great. I will

stand fast a very will in that that

W The Senate won't think it again, I think about

my very right by a - how again.

F We would advise you to call at 10. Elton

on basis of what instead of charity

P That might be authorized

W Same might save against that same pond of

pondes of a hero

P Might be good advice for a - broadcast few
Well go ahead check it.

Can you test this alt approach. If you make a change to draft Jegs..

I hate alt with M. Gale, you want to caution

ICAD

We believe there is some stripping away going on in London. It can't make that

Unsure just those same guys. Just wanted to let you know