MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:
President Ford
Ambassador Henry Catto, Chief of Protocol
Paulias N. Matane, Appointed Ambassador of Papua New Guinea
Lester E. Edmond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:
Friday, January 23, 1976
2:30 - 3:05 p.m.

PLACE:
The Oval Office

SUBJECT:
Presentation of Credentials

[The press came in to take photos. The President discussed his landing at Bougainville during the war after the operations against Robaul. Matane discussed present day Bougainville. The press left.]

Matane: There have been some recent problems with Bougainville. Some people want to break away, but we won't let that happen.

Many of us still remember Americans from the war and we would like to continue that good relationship. We have had missionaries and other good contacts with Americans as well.

President: What is the capital?

Matane: Port Moresby. I am trying to make friends with service people who served there.

President: There were plenty at Port Moresby. I am sure Defense could be helpful in getting names.
Matane: We haven't quite made up our minds about foreign policy since we are a new country. We plan to concentrate on internal development but we won't cut ourselves off from the outside world. We will concentrate on the Southwest Pacific area and then on relations with you.

President: We have good memories of your country and want to have the best of relations with you. We will be active in a constructive way in that part of the world. We will be as helpful as possible in your early plans. To the extent we can, we will work with you.
P/Ande Murni
2-3 Jan 76

(Please describe landing at Bevy arms & Orm, as you will often
open a point later. Write again, cleared
present day Bevy arms)

(Please note)

There have been some recent past of Bevy arms.
Some people want to break away but we
won't let that happen.
Many of us still remember our past core
so we would like to maintain that good relationship
we have had already & maintain good contacts
at Bevy arms as well.

[Pine tree is a legend]

Petit Murphy, I try to make friends of
different people whenever time

[Have some plant at lot M. Stewart
Dr.) would be impossible in getting venue.

We have visited some friends around P
since we are here. We plant on Mount
an informal village that isn't unrelated
off from outside world, we will concentrate
on S.W. Pacific area. Then, social
inform.

We have good memories of your country
& want to have a lot of relations in your.
We will be a tender in a different this
way in that part of world. We will
as helpful as possible in your daily
experiences. To expatriate we can & we will
write...