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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Amb. Daniel P. Moynihan, U.S. Ambassador

to the United Nations

Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President

for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Tuesday, January 27, 1976

4:32 - 5:15 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

President: The vote last night in the Security Council wasn't as bad as it could be. I thought it was interesting that Libya and the Chinese didn't vote.

Moynihan: We came out rather well. It was not an acrimonious debate and the resolution was -- while not something we could support -- not so outrageous that one couldn't imagine our support. Actually, the debate was a good one.

President: [Reads note brought in.] We beat the Byrd Amendment on the Marianias 8-7 in Senate Armed Services Committee and the bill itself passed by 9-4. That is good. It would have been bad to turn those people down.

Moynihan: The only subject for the Trusteeship Council now is the U.S. territorities. There is nothing else. There is a Committee of 24 -- the decolonization committee -- in the General Assembly. They are the ones giving us trouble. They issued an outrageous report. They discussed our base on Guam, our military base in the Virgin Islands, and NATO support for Rhodesia. When we attacked the report our allies were nowhere to be found.

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The Namibia debate is up today. The difference between South Africa and the United Nations is now minimal. I think that is manageable. The question is Angola. It may come up and make things messy. This may be an opportunity to let people know what Angola is all about. You are all alone on this.

<u>President:</u> [Described the Angola situation.] It is time these people put up or shut up. Congress has lost its guts -- they have cut and run and we need them on the record. No one who voted no can tell me to get tough with the Soviet Union. There is a lot of talk but no guts.

Moynihan: But the way to deal with it is not to confirm our pacificism but to reverse it. When it came up in the UN, the resolution was anti-South Africa. I got up and read the New York Times article about Cuban intervention and the resolution was eventually withdrawn. We could make it the counterpart of Vietnam -- there our blue eyes were shooting the natives, now it is their blue eyes shooting the blacks.

<u>President:</u> But I think we first have to get them pinned down so the people know who won't stand up for the United States.

Moynihan: You want to attack some Congressmen -- I want to attack the Soviet Union.

<u>President:</u> I have no objection to that, but we have to have people stand up to be counted.

[General Scowcroft left the meeting briefly, and returned.]

Moynihan: I have one personnel matter. The Department knows about it. To replace Barbara White. I would like Bob Kitchen. He is black.

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