MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Amb. James W. Hargrove, Ambassador to
Australia
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, February 6, 1976
10:15 - 10:25 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: I am delighted to have you going to Australia. When are you leaving?

Hargrove: I am going to Houston tonight, and to Australia a week from today.

[There followed a discussion of glasses.]

President: You are going to a government we approve of more than when Whitlam was there. Fraser has already taken some steps in our favor, and his economic plan is compatible with ours. You can tell him we support him with enthusiasm. I don't think I ever met him, did I?

Scowcroft: [The story about Fraser visit plans].

Hargrove: He wants to come but we both think this year is not the one. Incidentally, I hope you win.

President: [Discussed the upcoming primaries.]

Hargrove: Red Blount is a friend of mine. I helped with that [postal service] bill, which is still the right way to go. We've got to break that union.
President: It is a tough job. We just can't pay $1 billion out of the general fund.

Hargrove: They can pay for it if they would quit giving away magazines, etc.

President: Give Fraser my best. I don't know what our travel plans are, but the Vice President is going there. I'm glad you took the job.
Delighted to have you visit (Annette) when you arrived.

Harvey to call + your message for today.

P (discussion of glasses)

Per your letter of yesterday, James has already taken some steps in our plan + his plan plan is very similar to ours. You can tell him we support him (or whatever).

Don't forget to call him, and I...

S (Stinger + Frazier at first plan)

He wants to come but the U.S. think this year is not a good one. Ironically, he hopes you win.

P (Overland is playing a major role)

He said he sent a kind of mission up that hill, which is still a right way to go. We've got a break that evening.

P But it's a tough job. We must work very hard and spend funds.

B They are going for it if they're going to win. Only way through.

P (Skepticism over mechanics). Don't know what our strategy plan is. But U.S. going there.

Just your usual stuff!