MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

- President Ford
- Ambassador Christopher Maidou, Ambassador of the Central African Republic
- Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- Amb. Henry E. Catto, Jr., Chief of Protocol
- Charles A. James, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
- Alec G. Toumayan (Interpreter)

DATE & TIME: Monday, February 9, 1976
2:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

[The press was admitted briefly and then dismissed.]

President: I was very pleased to learn that your President escaped without injury from the attempt on his life. I communicated directly with him but I wish you would pass on my best wishes.

Maidou: I would be glad to.

President: We are grateful for the good relations between our two governments, and will do everything on our part to insure that they continue.

Maidou: Thank you.

President: I hope while you are posted here you will work with our people because of our strong desire that no problems exist between us.

Maidou: As I left the Central African Republic, President Bokassa asked me to convey his thanks for the cooperation you have extended to the CAR for its development. President Bokassa was gratified to learn of the...
presence of ores in our country. We discovered them by satellite. He attaches importance to this because the CAR is landlocked and our development is difficult. If the observations now being made by the US geophysicists confirm the satellite observations, it will be very important.

President: What minerals seem to be there?

Maidou: Uranium and iron appear to be present. It appears that the strip is 400 miles long and 125 miles wide with a depth of one-to-three miles. We have found iron ore with a concentration of 70%.

President: Is it accessible?

Maidou: Very. One field is only 120 miles from the capital, with a good road. For these reasons, President Bokassa would like your companies to take the lead in exploitation.

President: When should they know?

Maidou: I don't know exactly, except the team is already back.

President: I'm sure your people will be working with State. With the environment in your country, our companies should be eager to help. We will help whenever we can.
I am very pleased to learn that your friend escaped a serious injury from an attack in his life. I commend his ability to keep calm and wish you well from my best wishes.

I would be glad to

We are grateful for your entire assistance and trust that will be continued.

We thank you.

I hope that you and your loved one will work with others and continue to be helpful that we judge that it will be.

We are left C.R. I believe in this to bring this thanks for your brave and helpful to C.R. for its elegant. I believe was gradual to learn if present were more coming (in satellite). The attack was in a different place to more being spread by U.S. press over no宣布 I satellite detection it will be very urgent.

What continues?

In Channel 3 appears to be present. It appears that flying at 20,000 miles long 1/21

with a depth of 1-2 miles. Without good reason of concentration of 1/28.

It is inaccessible.

It is very clear field is only 20 miles from