

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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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
 Chalres 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.

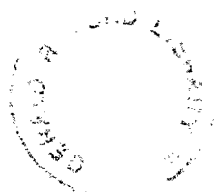
President: We are grateful for the good relations between our two governments, and will do everything on our part to insure that they continue.

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

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 E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
 NSG MEMO, 11/24/99, STATE DEPT. GUNDELINF. State Dec. 11/11/04
 BY [REDACTED] NARA DATE 1/7/04

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%.

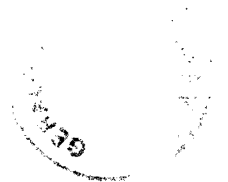
President: Is it accessible?

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.



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P/Comd Maidan
9 Feb 76

Pass out

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES *State Dep. memo 3/11/04*
BY wh NARA DATE 6/7/04

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