MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Gerald R. Ford
Secretary General Luns of NATO
Paul S.I.P. Van Campen, Heads of Luns
Private Office
Caterina A.B. Borgman Brouwer, Personal Assistant to Luns
Ambassador David K.E. Bruce, U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, February 9, 1976
3:00 - 3:40 p.m.

PLACE:
The Oval Office

Luns: Iceland tells me they are very happy you are interested without playing a forward role.

The President: It seems to ebb and flow.

Luns: It has been entirely taken up in domestic politics in Iceland. They will break diplomatic relations rather than break up the governing coalition.

The President: What can Wilson do?

Luns: He can say he will take the warships out for the time. He can also reduce the catch. He has done that, but it is not enough. They have not broken yet, which is a good sign. It would be a tragedy. Iceland is an unsinkable aircraft carrier.

The President: Is the UK the only other country that fishes there?
Luns: No, the Germans do also, but they have accepted the Iceland conditions, as have the Belgians. The Britains say fish and chips is the poor man's diet and areas like Hull are heavily dependent on it.

The President: We have some other problems with our friends. I was very disappointed with Greece and Turkey. What is happening?

Luns: I think they will agree to start the talks on the 17th, but I doubt the Turks will be prepared to make concessions. Speaking frankly, should the Turks withdraw from NATO we would have to consider withdrawing Greece also. It wouldn't be defensible to have only Greece.

The President: Is there any movement?

Luns: Some. The Dutch have agreed to receive the Spanish Foreign Minister.

The reception of the Treaty was good. There was no dissenting voice. I plan to invite the Spanish as observers to the environmental meetings, major maneuvers, etcetera. But in the end it depends on the Spanish themselves. The Basques are a problem and would be no matter what the regime.

May I be candid. There is great worry in Europe now about the United States. There is an admiration for your leadership and that of the Secretary of State who isn't criticized at all like he is here. We are afraid it is becoming a government by assembly. We are afraid your people are losing the taste for leadership.

The President: It is a bad period. Reagan has not attacked our leadership but he doesn't know what he is talking about.

What is your appraisal of Portugal?

Luns: It is veering in the right direction. The military has purged itself but the economy is in a dreadful shape. They have taken in 300,000 people from the colonies and that is tough for a country that size. Foreign policy is by essence a compromise. Even a superpower must compromise. Antunes is farther left than Soares.

The President: Will the EC help?
Luns: Yes. They are providing additional help.

The President: We were afraid the Congress would turn us down on Angola, but I thought we had to make them stand up to be counted. They are looking for a way to get off the hook. I told Godfrey Sperling of the Christian Science Monitor this morning that Congress was losing its guts.

What about Italy?

Luns: It baffles everybody. First the old timers have no sense of responsibility. They are smart and able men but without any sense of patriotism. The Italian economy was recuperating slowly, but this crisis has resulted in a worsening and flight of capital.

[Secretary Kissinger arrives.]

Luns: In France, if there is really a split with Moscow, the Communist party is no longer Communists. But we don't know.

Kissinger: I find it difficult to believe that the French Communists have become Social Democrats. I could think it a little easier if it was the Italians, but even that is not our problem. At best, they would be like Tito whose foreign policy is a disaster for us around the world.

The President: We have an honor now to confer on David. It is an honor for me to present it and the country is far better off for having had your service.
Hi Dick,

1. I feel like this was a very lucky year for me, I'm sure it was playing a good day.
2. It seems to add to fear.
3. It can be extremely tiring in domestic politics in Ireland. They might break what
   other things break up. Growing problems.
5. He can say he will take government and at first time. He can lose little election. He has
   done that not very.
6. Notrim on this yet. It is a good sign.
7. Ireland losing tragedy. Ireland is an unwanted
cart colony.
8. In UK only further trouble.
9. Yes, a common sense but they have accepted
10. ... as far as... I will take... dependency or.
11. We have some other targets from friends. I'm
12. I think they will agree to until... I will. It
13. I don't think he will be prepared for summary.
14. Speaking positively said. I will give from
15. I won't have to consider. I'm assuming
16. This doesn't have to be always
17. The Spanish. The... Morality is not
18.-really me + I will define him
19. really with. This is within my
20. proposals.
P. Is there any movement

2. Some. The Dutch have agreed to receive

Spanish Em.

The idea from Spain was good. In charity,
voice.

I plan to invite 32, as above. To maintain
unity, major weaknesses exist. But in
and it depends on 32 themselves. The
Bosnians and a fact would be written
in the regime.

Need to candid. There is great worry
in Europe and US. Need to a democratic
parliamentary leadership + that of Serb
must not exist. This line. We feel
it is good by assembly. We from
your people has no taste for leadership.

It is a bad period. Reagan has now
attacked own leadership. He doesn't know
what he is talking about.

What is your opinion of that?

6. It is needing in a right direction. The
military has progressed, but a learning
is hard. It's a difficult thing.

They took them in too as soon at lines
that is enough for country that size.

EP's key European countries. Europe
supports most corporations.

Sometimes is further left than Spain.

P. Will CC study.
1. Yes they are planning about help
2. We found a Camp about ten miles away, but 4 of that we had to make them stand again to be counted. I think they are beginning to change. They are doing something to get off the boat. I still feel this morning that they were losing it. What about Italy?
3. It troubles me greatly. First of all times have gone very. They are smart and mean but with a sense of civilization. Italian feeling was losing very. But the crisis has resulted in increasing a flight of expected.
4. (Unknown)
5. I am Sir, for there is really no spirit, a large part is no longer lost. But we don't know.
6. I feel it wise to believe that a few months have been for. Demo. I don't think so a whole basis for Italy. But even that is not very sure. At least they would be like Italy but if an EP is a director for around a world.
7. We have no base now to support the country is going better off for being here your service