MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Gerald R. Ford

Otto Rose Borch, Ambassador of Denmark Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President

for National Security Affairs

Arthur A. Hartman, Assistant Secretary of State

for Bureau of European Affairs

Ambassador Stuart W. Rockwell, Deputy Chief

of Protocol, Department of State

DATE AND TIME:

Tuesday, February 24, 1976

2:00 - 2:44 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

SUBJECT:

Presentation of Credentials

[The press enters. There is a discussion of Guatemala. The press leaves.]

The President: We had all the American Governors in last night. It was pleasant.

I am pleased to welcome you and am looking forward to the Queen's visit on May 11.

Borch: I consider that an honor and privilege. I have great admiration for the United States and have spent seven years at the UN. I consider this the greatest honor my country could pay me.

As you know, the Queen is planning to visit a number of American cities. She asked me to convey her regards and her anticipation of meeting with you. She is opening the ballet and doing a number of other things -- like an art exhibit.

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CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft

EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652

EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b) (1, 3)

AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.

DECLOSSINED E.O. 12968, SEC. 3.5 IO, HIMME, STATE CEPT. CUIDELINES, SELL QV. C. J. J. V. The President: We are delighted to have her participate so widely. We have a number of citizens of Danish origin in the United States. My feeling is they are widespread and have assimilated completely, unlike some other ethnic groups.

Borch: Yes. They are mostly in the midwest and California.

The President: I just want to assure you that this government will maintain its contribution to Western Europe and NATO. You can tell your government that. Denmark has been very helpful in NATO and we appreciate it.

Borch: The Prime Minister is highly appreciative that you received him both at the NATO meeting and last November. He asked me to say we place the highest consideration on close relations with the United States. We know what you mean to our freedom.

On a personal basis may I say we appreciate how you have personally participated in NATO, at Helsinki, at Rambouillet. We place the highest importance on the Alliance and think it has never been stronger.

The President: We feel it has been further strengthened over the past year. Nothing we do, in SALT or anything else, will weaken this Alliance.

Borch: We are now a member of the European Community and there we note with satisfaction that relations with the United States are developing and are not doing so to the detriment of NATO. We are working for even closer relations between the Nine and the United States. Cooperation among the Nine is working well and in a step-by-step approach with the United States.

<u>The President:</u> If we can just make progress in Portugal and encourage movement in Spain . . .

Borch: We had the pleasure of Secretary Kissinger's visit about a month ago and we discussed the political orientation in Europe. We are aware of the challenges you mention.



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