

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Gyula Szeker, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary  
Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Commerce  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
Amb. Ferenc Esztergalyos, Hungarian Ambassador

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, May 4, 1976  
11:58-12:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: I am very pleased you were able to accept Secretary Morton's invitation to visit. Is this your first visit to this country?

Szeker: Yes, it is.

President: How long will you be here?

Szeker: One week. We want to visit New York and Chicago. My heart is in industry, so I hope to see some of your industrial plants.

President: You will see much industry if you go to the Detroit area.

Szeker: This matter is connected with the fact that we would like to advance in the area of industrial cooperation. I think probably we can't be satisfied with the present level. We are a small country but our share of trade with the US is only 1%. Before the war it used to be 5%. We are working toward an increase.

President: I know the trade has been small, even though there has been some increase.

Szeker: We have started on this road. We cooperate on tractor production with Steiger and others. Agricultural cooperation is doing well. Secretary Butz visited Hungary last fall. There are a large number of possibilities here.

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/88, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 8/12/04

BY 144, MARA, DATE 1/11/04

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We feel also on the level of state relations and others, we should raise relations to a higher level.

I would like to raise two other points, if I may: We are aware of your great efforts to provide MFN. We would like very much to have it prevail.

President: We were very disappointed with the legislation which passed in 1974. We will have to get the legislation changed, but I don't think Congress will be in the mind to do it in 1976.

One point I would like to make -- I would hope we could work out broader cooperation in the area of scientific and cultural affairs between us.

Szeker: We very much hope that if not in '76, then in '77 the modification of the Act will take place.

President: We will be doing our best to change the law so we can expand cooperation with countries like Hungary.

Szeker: One final problem. Hungary has a 1000-year history. The Hungarian people are sensitively affected by the fact that the Hungarian Crown is in the United States. The Hungarian people have suffered much in many wars. Almost all our national treasures have been destroyed. We are on the path of marching armies and we have almost no relics of the 11th and 12th centuries. We have little earlier than the 15th and 16th centuries. The return of the Crown jewels would provoke a very positive response in the Hungarian people and I would ask you to find a way to get the Crown back to the people.

President: We understand your concern. We will look at the situation and see what can be done. I am not in a position to say yes at this time. We understand how important this is to your cultural heritage. I will look at the situation and communicate through the proper channels.

You are meeting with Secretaries Simon and Richardson today and you have met Secretary Butz already. They are very able men and we hope through them we can expand this relationship.

Szeker: Thank you very much.

P/O.P.M. Szabher / Richardson  
4 May 76

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Two other points. We are aware of  
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P. Good evening disapp. w/c dep visit

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S. Thank you very much