MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PARTICIPANTS:
President Ford
Georg Leber, Minister of Defense, FRG
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Amb. Berndt von Staden, Ambassador to the U.S.
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Karl Freudenstein [Interpreter]

DATE & TIME: Friday, July 2, 1976
12:20-12:54 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: I think we had a very constructive meeting at Puerto Rico.

[The press was admitted for photographs.]

Leber: Our Chancellor and Foreign Minister thought it was a very fine conference.

President: They made a great contribution.

[Rumsfeld: Comments about the Army tank and the Hoffman presentations to the President, and Bob Hope and Leber at a party.]

[The press was ushered out.]

Leber: Thank you very much for granting me this brief encounter. The Chancellor sends you his greetings and I also bring to you our official gratification with your policies toward Europe and your defense.
budget which is an example of upholding the strength of the free world and as an example. In the face of Angola and other moves of Soviet policy, these measures are a good antidote for the sense of unease which runs through our countries [in Europe].

Our two defense departments have very good relations, which is not only good bilaterally but it flows through the Alliance when they see we two have such cooperation.

President: Let me say again how much I appreciated the Chancellor's contribution at Puerto Rico. It always is a privilege to see him. I am glad you are pleased with our defense budget. It is a difficult choice, but for years I have said that social programs have been growing at the expense of defense. We decided it was time it had to be turned around, and Don did most of the work but I am solidly behind it and we think we will get our budget requests through with only about 1 percent loss. I think the American people support me and the Secretary and that has had an impact on the Congress as well.

I would just add that I think NATO is in better shape than it was a year ago and than it was several years ago. But we have to keep up the momentum and I hope our effort will stimulate the others to do more.

Leber: I agree the Alliance is in better shape, although this in contradiction to what we read in both our newspapers. It is true but for some weak spots in the Mediterranean -- like Italy, where noone knows what will happen. But besides the military confrontation, we will have a political confrontation. If I read Brezhnev's speech advocating disbanding of military alliances and cutting back defense. We must not just be passive and we must actively move to meet this political challenge.

President: I agree there are problems in the Mediterranean. Italy is a real problem and the Greek-Turkish dispute over Cyprus is a tragedy. I hope we can make progress in working that out.

But we shouldn't overlook the problems they have in the Soviet bloc. Judging from the recent speeches, there is internal dissension. We have to keep our guard up, but there are problems -- like Poland's recent attempt to raise prices.

We must do better. Just because they may have some problems is no excuse for us in any way letting down on our guard.
Leber: On the Eastern Mediterranean, we have followed with interest your attitude toward Greece and Turkey. The Chancellor and I traveled there to try to improve relations. I think it will be possible to reintegrate these two back together and into NATO, but only if we deal with them on the basis of absolute equality. The Congress has not done this and unless it is done we cannot solve this problem.

President: I agree, on the Greek-Turkish issue Congress has been a disaster. One other point. In the Mediterranean I think Spain is taking careful steps toward opening its system and I think we must encourage them and move as rapidly as possible to associate them more closely in Europe and NATO.

Leber: Don and I have discussed this and there is no difference in our appraisal of the importance of Spain. My friendly advice is that NATO as an Alliance should not move too fast to make an association with Spain because of the problem it would create with some of the members. So I would keep NATO out of it now and encourage bilateral cooperation. Then, in the natural order of things, NATO association will follow. That will take patience, however.

You suggested in Bonn last year that I visit Portugal. That was a good idea and it was a productive trip. I urge that you do what you can to help.

President: I agree.

Leber: It doesn't have to be very much but it would be of great help.

President: Is Eanes a good military leader?

Leber: I think he is a reliable political leader.

President: I see he has moved rapidly in the economic field.
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<tr>
<th>Reason for Withdrawal</th>
<th>National security restriction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Material</td>
<td>Briefing Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Meeting with FRG Defense Minister Leber</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Number</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Date Withdrawn</td>
<td>08/02/2004</td>
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<td>Withdrawing Archivist</td>
<td>GG</td>
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2 July 76

P Think we had a very productive visit to PH.

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1. Other Chamberlain + Fred Chet it was very

fine.

2. They made a great contribution.

3. Chamberlain + Fred Chet PH.

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4. Things about the PH + A's future position in the Egypt.

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First up + we need to go to their being

their agenda. Chamberlain made his political + basis

very official understand + we approach toward

Egypt and agreed by budget as an example

of stability + strength of a free world as a whole.

In a sense of our plan to attain understand for policy

these are a good contributio to a sense of

innovation which would be on successful (Sun)

next 2 days to have very good relations, which

is vitally good bilaterally but it seems

then a dilemma when they are not to have

such an easy.

But the key again here I suggested

- Chamberlain's understanding at PH. Having

a principle for the limit.

1. Thank you very much for our meeting.

That's for life. Here but for years and

peer had been wanting sit regulation of defense,

It would itself cause that it lead to the

tourist annual + some of enanty want. I am

fortunately behind it I can think we

would get them up to about 15% less. I think

it makes just post want up to 25% that

has that an impact on a line. as well.

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BY NLF DATE 8/1/74
In our past, we find a path in the
distance of a year ago that was real progress.
But we have to keep our momentum. We have
both our efforts and our concerns to live up.

The way we chose is in writing, shape, the time
in structure, it what we used in both an
unpredictable, it in time but for some work, get
in a fluid - the thing above our winner
what will happen. But if we try and make
we will have a job, experience. But if
the speech concludes understanding with
where is - nothing brave defense we must
not just be passive - must act truly now.
to meet this predicted challenge.

1. [Jager than me] just in a wind. Italy is in
with just - E-T done and done. Spain is a
tragedy. These are cases making in writing
that out.

But we shouldnt waste a pole in - Som-
way. Jager from the most gentle, there
is without discipline. We have to try our
found in - but there will just be - like normal
underneath the previous.

We cannot do better. Just because they
may have some fate is no defense from in
any way getting down on general.

On E, I had, some time followed so that you
attitude toward E-T. Chairman - I learned
then to try to express. It will be, in fact, the
will be greater understanding this to look deeper
with not, but why you have used in this
or longerlasting some general. For long
Dear [Friend],

I must depart; a matter which I have come to understand. Our meeting in [Place] is not to be.

Spain is taking a road to a different direction. I think we must encourage other nations, especially here, to approach them more closely in [Area] and [Other].

Due to [Reason], I agree with [Other], and I thought it would be wise to encourage [Other] because [Reason].

In conclusion, if your [Item] were to be followed, that would be fortunate, however,

I am not sure if [Item] is important, but it could be of great help.

I think we must continue to [Action] and [Action]...

I hope the [Place] will [Action] and be successful...

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]