MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:
- President Ford
- Senator Mike Mansfield, D.-Montana
- Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME:
Friday - November 5, 1976
3:25 p.m. - (uncertain)

PLACE:
The Oval Office

SUBJECT:
Senator Mansfield's Trip to China

Mansfield: Well, I don't know what to say. You got the states but not the votes.

President: It was a helluva campaign.

Mansfield: It was. A good, clean campaign. I think a lot of people had a hard time deciding. Where are you going to go? Stay here?

President: Probably not. None of the kids' friends are left in Virginia. In Grand Rapids we haven't lived since we only had one child. "We'll probably float between California and Vail.

Mansfield: There have been a lot of changes in the Congress. It is going to be a tough bunch for the new guy.

President: And there aren't the leaders anymore. Tip O'Neill is not a Rayburn or even an Albert.

Mansfield: I'm not sure even Rayburn could deal with this gang.

We spent a week at Sinkiang. It has a sixth of the land area but only 11 million people. The border has been closed for years, but they are not afraid of the Soviet Union. I went to Peking three times. We heard about Hua Kuo-feng's elevation. They're building a Mao mausoleum. It's most un-Chinese.
We had a good meeting with Li Hsien-nien, who was very philosophical. He said they have to fire some empty cannon once in a while. Mao's niece was a little sharper with me, but on Taiwan she said it was our problem; they had done their part. I said we had a lot of knots and it took time. She said knots can be untied. I said not if they are wet.

President: Were they belligerent as they were with (Hugh) Scott?

Mansfield: No. I think Hugh sort of asked for it. You have to roll with these people. You can't win an argument with them. Everywhere we went, the line was grief for Mao and saturation with the Mao line.

President: About the Soviets too?

Mansfield: Yes. No change in the hatred there. I think the purge was being planned right along, even maybe before Mao died. I wasn't surprised it happened; only that it was so soon. It's been a helluva year for them -- four earthquakes, Teng, Mao, the purge.

They have a lot of confidence, they aren't afraid of the Soviet Union. They are working hard but have a long way to go. They say the Soviets are going after the West, not after them. They said we should get out of Korea with the UN Command, but they are not pressing us. I said how about our troops in Europe? And they said "That's your problem." I said it is weaker than before, with Greece-Turkey, Italy, Portugal. They said: "Why don't you advise them?"

(There was a little discussion on the Thailand coup. He said they were going back to the old corrupt Thai ways. There was some discussion of Japan and Miki.)

President: I think the Governor doesn't know what he is in for.

Mansfield: He really doesn't. I don't think anyone could. It's a new ball game.

President: There is a big turnover.

Mansfield: They don't play the game the same way.
President: Who will be the new leader?

Mansfield: I don't know. It is really between Hubert and Bob (Byrd). I don't know about his health.

(Discussion of Betty, Steve)

President: How is the Big Sky coming?

Mansfield: I talked to Tippy Huntley. A guy from Michigan bought half. I guess it's not doing too well. Just getting by. They want to make it a Vail, but it is going very slowly.

President: I see John Melcher won (a Senate seat from Montana).

Mansfield: Yes. He is a good man. He worked hard. A new Republican took his old seat.
Well I don't know about it any. You got
a thing but not a note.

It was a Bellvue campaign.

If you're going to campaign, I think
a lot of people had a hard time winning.

What are you going to do? Stay the
same.

It's hot. When the heat from the light in VA.

Grand Rapids we haven't liked since we had
a chill last week. That Calif. Wind.

A lot of changes in a day. It's going to be
-

Tough, tough this afternoon. Tip is out. Rayham
or some all black.

I won't come until Rayham could walk this way.

Tell me about your tip.

We spent a week at Sunbush. It's hot and

wet. All with people. Bodies filling the place, but

they won't go. S.V. Went to Captain's house,

We heard about how education was more-

less a must somewhere.

We had a good party of Kais with me and

photograph. Said they want to give some

empty kisses. Man, there was a little

change. Of course, that was normal and

not everyone. But that doesn't help them get

out. I wonder what it's like to be a little

brave or a little time. She said between

in which I said not if they want.

We're they telling one each other.

Mr. So. I think it's important to remember for it.

Some time to read and think about. Thank
I am an agent of the

Everywhere we went in Texas we were going for

I think a few were being armed with clay

don't know before now. We don't understand

It happened near that it was so soon.

They have a helluva gun for them - 200-yards

They have a helluva gun and I don't know how way it

They made one say a sentence are going on

They said that you just. I said it was the

Then 3:00 am. C.T., thinks, but they

They said why don't you admire them.

(A little on F-bombed camp. Said they were going

(A little on Japan + bomb)

It is a big business

They don't play games anymore.

I don't know. Perfect, excellent. But do

Don't know about his health.
(Discussion of Betty, Stine)

P: How's it going, Betty?

M: Silas is still working. He's a hard worker. He's been working in Michigan.

P: He's been working in Michigan.

M: He's been working in Michigan. He's doing it very well. He's getting along.

P: How's the weather?

M: Yes. He's a good man. He's been working a lot.