



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: January 14, 1974

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: OEOB Office

SUBJECT: Call on the Vice President by Lord Cromer

PARTICIPANTS:

The Vice President
Major General Dunn

Lord Cromer, Ambassador of Great Britain

After an exchange of pleasantries, the Ambassador indicated that he would be replaced here by the previous United Kingdom Ambassador to Tehran. The new man is a close personal friend and the choice of the Prime Minister himself. He has the advantage of an intimate personal knowledge of the present oil situation and is also very knowledgeable about the Middle East. In that regard, the Ambassador suggested that a solution to the present difficulties in the Middle East should be the first order of business for us all. About twenty percent of the United Kingdom's energy requirements is obtained from domestic coal, and it would be difficult to increase this percentage markedly. The deposits were rather deep and to an important extent had been tapped already. A discussion of industrial relations in both countries ensued. Lord Cromer indicated that there was considerable sympathy in Great Britain for the coal miners because of the difficulty of their working conditions. He feels that his contacts with the American public indicate that inflation and the energy situation are the two top issues here. Indeed, inflation is probably the greatest danger facing the Western world.

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By and large, the United States has done very well with this problem -- better than many of the Western European nations.

The Ambassador indicated he saw some new and very interesting opportunities for the Vice President with the Congress. For the first time in several years, the incumbent Vice President had both the experience and interest to work well with the Hill. The President clearly needs a very strong advocate there.

The Vice President noted that not only had he served with the entire House membership, but he had known, previously in the House, some thirty-four members of the present Senate. With regard to the 1974 elections, the Vice President indicated it was possible that incumbents of both parties might suffer from the present political climate. He saw much less chance, however, of the Republicans being hurt drastically because of their connection with the Administration in power.

The meeting concluded with a further exchange of pleasantries.

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