

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Ambassador Henry Catto, Chief of Protocol  
Paulias N. Matane, Appointed Ambassador  
of Papua New Guinea  
Lester E. Edmond, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
of State for East Asian Affairs  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, January 23, 1976  
2:30 - 3:05 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Presentation of Credentials



[The press came in to take photos. The President discussed his landing at Bougainville during the war after the operations against Robaul. Matane discussed present day Bougainville. The press left.]

Matane: There have been some recent problems with Bougainville. Some people want to break away, but we won't let that happen.

Many of us still remember Americans from the war and we would like to continue that good relationship. We have had missionaries and other good contacts with Americans as well.

President: What is the capital?

Matane: Port Moresby. I am trying to make friends with service people who served there.

President: There were plenty at Port Moresby. I am sure Defense could be helpful in getting names.

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 (b) (1, 3)  
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES  
BY [Signature], NARA, DATE 6/7/04

Matane: We haven't quite made up our minds about foreign policy since we are a new country. We plan to concentrate on internal development but we won't cut ourselves off from the outside world. We will concentrate on the Southwest Pacific area and then on relations with you.

President: We have good memories of your country and want to have the best of relations with you. We will be active in a constructive way in that part of the world. We will be as helpful as possible in your early plans. To the extent we can, we will work with you.



P/Arms Matsani

23 Jan 76

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(Pres discussed launching at Boeing with offer  
open against Robert. Matsani discussed  
present day Boeing with)  
(Pres out)

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