



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: OEOB
TIME: 2:00 p. m.
DATE: March 21, 1974

SUBJECT: Ambassador Bunker Visit

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President
John O. Marsh, Jr.

U.S. Ambassador at Large Ellsworth Bunker
Mr. S. Morey Bell, Director, Office of
Panamanian Affairs

Ambassador at Large Bunker met with the Vice President to discuss the Panama situation. He said the atmosphere in Panama was better, but could recognize lines were being drawn on Capitol Hill with strong opposition from Dan Flood and his followers.

The Vice President urged that there be no further announcements about Panama this year, and can shoot for 1975 as the year of decision and implementation.

Bunker said that DOD had been very helpful, but agreed there were problems ahead.

Reference to the negotiations he said we were asking for 50 years on the Canal but Panama wanted a termination end of 1999. By termination, this means they will get the Canal and the Zone. In the meantime, there will be a phasing-in of Panama jurisdiction. As a part of the arrangements, we are seeking to build a new sea level canal or to expand the old canal, but with an extension of time for operations.