THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Amb. Robert Ingersoll, retiring Deputy Secretary

of State

Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President

for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, March 25, 1976

12:21 - 12:35 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

The President: We are sorry to lose you

Ingersoll: I have mixed feelings.

The President: Will you go back to your firm?

<u>Ingersoll</u>: No. I will be writing notes over the next several months. Then I may join an international company in some manner. But I have refused to discuss that until I left.

[Discussion of skiiing at Aspen]

Ingersoll: I ran across my notes of your debriefing in Yokota on your China trip.

The President: That was a fine trip. It was more interesting from a people-to-people standpoint.

<u>Ingersoll:</u> There are two points I wanted to mention. The cultural exchange program. It has moved backward in terms of the State budget and other programs. It has a great influence on future leaders in the world -- Sadat, Schmidt, etc. Whether these people are friendly or not, they understand us better.

The President: I think Demirel and Ecevit both were in it.

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<u>Ingersoll:</u> It is the only project in State, so it is easy for OMB to cut at it.

The President: I hope we can do better next year.

<u>Ingersoll</u>: The other point is I hate to see the trend to protectionism. I know you are opposed to it, but it is harmful.

The President: There are a lot of them coming up. I just know on the steel one we couldn't have avoided a Congressional override.

Ingersoll: That's right. But that is not the case on shoes.

The President: How has Lockheed affected Japan?

<u>Ingersoll:</u> It is the worst thing since the Nixon shock of 1971, but I think they are getting over it and I think it is being handled well. If it can be hept in legal channels and the material preserved unless it comes out in court proceedings.

The President: Bob, we'll miss you.

<u>Ingersoll:</u> I will miss the environment and your leadership. I wish you well now and in the election.

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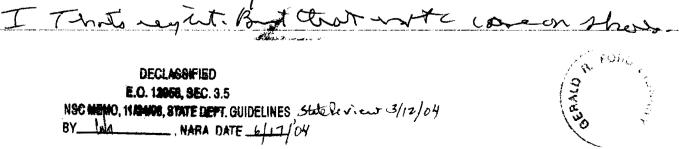
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