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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet,
of France
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Richard C. Campbell, Notetaker

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, March 29, 1973; 10:17 - 10:34 a.m.

PLACE: Dr. Kissinger's Office

Ambassador: We have an answer. Very affirmative. The President agrees with the idea of a meeting. Regarding dates most convenient, we would like the end of June or beginning of July. My President is meeting on June 20-22 with Brandt and must be back by July 14.

Dr. Kissinger: The President meets with Brezhnev in June. I can see some advantages to seeing your President before Brezhnev. I think it would be symbolically important.

We are talking now about 18 June for Brezhnev. We want August. We will do anything at your convenience. The President will see Tanaka July 1. The principal question is should the meeting be before or after the Soviets. Should they resurrect the idea of the treaty we would like to have talked to your President first.

Second, we would like to proceed with the treaty before July and we want to coordinate with your President. That is why we want the second half of May.

Ambassador: Let me check on that.

Dr. Kissinger: What place? Do you know if you have any preference?

Ambassador: Well, I don't...

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Dr. Kissinger: We would be glad for him to come here. We would also be glad to go to France but would want to combine it with a trip to other European countries. I don't think you would want us to come to France only. Or we could do it at a French colony, such as Martinique. We did the Azores last time, but we would be honored to have him here. You could expect better treatment than last time. Our President feels very warm toward your President.

Ambassador: Third. Could you give us a copy of the question for me to take back to France? Only you and I are aware of this question.

Dr. Kissinger: That is the way I want to keep it. That way you and I can blackmail each other. [Laughter] I have the following thought. I would like to set up a relationship with you, or whomever your President dictates. Perhaps Jobert. I would like to see you and him for a day. Or just you alone, if you prefer. When are you going back?

Ambassador: I don't know. I was waiting until I saw you. Maybe we should meet again after I get some answers.

Dr. Kissinger: Let's meet during the week of April 9 and I will give you an agenda. Our basic thinking is this: We believe that if we go into trade negotiations without a framework, confrontation will almost certainly result. If our President has to make each decision one at a time, on its own merits, he will be motivated by domestic political pressures. We also have defense issues to discuss. It is helpful to get an overall framework to discuss economics, defense and political issues. We cannot have a monetary crisis every six months, and we both have an energy crisis.

Ambassador: Yes, we must discuss our energy problems.

Dr. Kissinger: The question is whether the western world will have a good consistent policy, or will we be like the Greeks and be overwhelmed by the outside world?

Ambassador: Yes, they cannot divide us.

Dr. Kissinger: This is our approach. In both countries the administrations have the same tenure. We want your defense to be strong even though it will cause us domestic political problems. This, of course, should be held very close.

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Ambassador: Yes, I never...

Dr. Kissinger: Why don't we get together the week of the 9th? Could you get a preliminary response to this idea?

Ambassador: Could I get the agenda before I go to France?

Dr. Kissinger: Let's meet on 11 April and I will have the papers.

Ambassador: I will check the 11th.

Dr. Kissinger: The 10th or 11th for lunch?

Ambassador: Whatever is convenient for you.

Dr. Kissinger: I will let you know.

Ambassador: I think we need one hour.

Dr. Kissinger: Let's do lunch here in the Map Room.

Ambassador: Yes, and your most convenient date would be the second half of May.

Dr. Kissinger: If your President comes here, perhaps we can go to Camp David. Florida will be hot at that time of year.

Ambassador: Let's work it out.

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