

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: His Excellency Dr. Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor
of the Federal Republic of Austria
Hannes Androsch, Minister of Finance

President Gerald Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday - November 12, 1974
11:15 - 12:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

The press was admitted briefly to take photographs. There was light conversation about Dr. Kissinger's International Seminar at Harvard and about Dr. Kissinger's having lectured at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna when Chancellor Kreisky was there.

The President expressed his pleasure at welcoming Chancellor Kreisky again. He recalled with pleasure his own visit to Austria with Mrs. Ford in the fall of 1956 when he had attended the Opera and gone skiing in the Alps. He had also paid a visit to Andau. The Chancellor remembered first meeting President Nixon when he visited Austria as Vice President in 1956. It was a year after the State Treaty, and many Austrians still felt a threat of reoccupation by the Soviet Union. A crowd of 200,000 turned out to welcome Vice President Nixon. The Chancellor noted that President Ford still skied, and urged him to come to Austria again for skiing.

The President observed that the US and Austria had no real problems in their bilateral relations. He and Dr. Kissinger expressed gratitude for Austria's constructive role in the Middle East, including the Chancellor's tour of the area in the spring, and on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

The Chancellor said he had three principal subjects to raise with the President: Vienna's desire to become the third UN center; energy; and Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

The Chancellor asked for US support for Vienna's bid to become a third UN center, after New York and Geneva. Vienna was not trying to compete with New York; in fact the Chancellor would regard it as a tragedy if the UN left New York or the United States. Nor was it for the purpose of tourism. The main purpose was to give Austria additional security and to provide a meeting place between East and West and an international observation point 40 kilometers from the Communist borders. Austria already hosted the UNIDO and IAEA. Austria very much wanted to become the third UN center and to continue as one of Europe's great capitals. The Austrian Government was already building enormous new structures to house the UN across the Danube.

Secretary Kissinger noted that there were some technical and bureaucratic objections in the US bureaucracy but not objections in principle. The Chancellor noted that France, which had opposed it, now seemed favorable, and the FRG was in favor.

The Chancellor turned to the energy problem. Austria had decided to join the International Energy Program but wanted to find a formula for preserving its neutrality. Austria did not want a reservation that could be used as an escape clause. Secretary Kissinger replied that under these circumstances some compromise formula should be achievable. It was against America's interest to do anything jeopardizing Austria's neutrality. He suggested that Assistant Secretary Enders work with the Austrian side on this.

Chancellor Kreisky then raised the question of Austria's role as transfer point for Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union. If the number of emigrants was about to double, the Austrian Government was concerned about the added responsibility for ensuring security against terrorist attacks. They had been forced to close down Schoenau in 1973 because of the security problem. The Chancellor feared more trouble from the terrorists if there was much noise about an increase. The President replied that the figure of 60,000 prospective emigrants per year was not an official figure; it was a target which Senator Jackson had personally set. The Chancellor said

the problem was not the doubling of the number, but that other countries should share in the task of receiving these emigrants. He recommended that arrangements be made for direct air travel from the Soviet Union to Amsterdam. Secretary Kissinger suggested that the US would raise the matter with the Israelis.

The Chancellor then remarked that these were the only problems he had to raise. He reemphasized that there was no country where the United States had such a strong friend. Both major parties in Austria were friends of the US and to be anti-American was political suicide. President Ford recalled from his experience while in Congress that this was the case. He could remember no problems with Austria. He wished all our relations with other countries were so good.

The conversation turned to East-West relations. The President spoke of his intention to expand detente and his hopes to make progress in SALT in his forthcoming meeting in Vladivostok with General Secretary Brezhnev. The President indicated the US intention to continue our step-by-step approach to promoting a negotiated peace in the Middle East. He reiterated his appreciation for Austria's constructive role on that issue.

Chancellor Kreisky expressed Austria's desire to see some results coming out of CSCE in Helsinki. The Soviets should realize that some results were necessary, or else it was just a show. The Secretary observed that a consolidated European position on what Soviet concessions we wanted would make it possible to attain them. He asked the Chancellor's support in this effort. The Chancellor agreed.

The Chancellor noted also that energy cooperation between East and West was a fruitful area for discussion at CSCE and for a follow-on conference. The creation of the energy agency for the West was therefore especially significant--ultimately for the East as well as the West.

He also expressed the hope that the mutual force reduction talks in Vienna would produce some results, believing that Brezhnev himself had an interest in results. The President agreed, and expressed his hope for some meaningful progress next year. He hoped Austria would contribute to a more cooperative European attitude on this question.

In closing, Chancellor Kreisky invited the President to visit Austria, if even for a short stay in Vienna. He promised a light schedule so the President could have the maximum time to see things. He pointed to Austria's good fortune in having full employment and growing prosperity. The President expressed his gratitude and his strong personal desire to pay a visit to Austria.