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February 26, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger (Signed) HK

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Your 10:30 a.m. Meeting with President Pompidou on Thursday, February 26, 1970

GENERAL

Your final meeting with President Pompidou is scheduled to last from 10:30 until noon and will be attended by Pompidou's interpreter and General Walters. I suggest you cover the following issues: the Middle East, Germany, Vietnam, and include a comment on heroin and your proposed ambassadorial change. I also suggest that you attempt to draw out Pompidou's views on the monetary situation and on the future of Europe.

SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS

Middle East

This will be the toughest subject because it is unlikely that this disagreement can be resolved. The best course will probably be to:

- Indicate that we understand the French policy line of trying to maintain contact with and influence on the Arabs.
- Express the hope that the French will also show understanding for the imperative that governs our policies.
- Make the point that it is not likely that any of us can outbid the Soviets in cultivating Arab political support since the Arab-Israeli conflict serves Soviet interests whereas Western interests would be better served by an Arab-Israeli settlement.
- Say we should not allow needless misunderstanding to arise over a failure to keep each other informed.
- Stress that we share the same ultimate goal, and that where we disagree we should at least try to minimize practical consequences of disagreement.

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-- You may wish to ask Pompidou to set forth fully the rationale for French policy in the Middle East.

-- NOTE: Pompidou will probably not raise the issue of the Libyan aircraft deal and you should not make a special effort to do so. If, however, it comes up you may want to explain that there are strong feelings in this country on this subject and that the French decision critically increased pressures on you to ship arms to Israel. Basically we would much prefer to see all arms shipments ended.

Germany

The French are concerned that Brandt may be moving too fast in his Eastern policy (to some extent they resent that the Soviets now find the Germans more interesting to talk to than the French); and they are worried about German economic power. DeGaulle, you will recall, stressed the disparity between German economic recovery and its political weakness. You should be cautious about saying anything that might be construed as critical of Brandt or the Germans because it is likely to get back to the Germans through the French bureaucracy. You may wish to make the following points:

-- Ask for Pompidou's assessment of the Brandt Government (he has met twice with Brandt since entering office).

-- Make the point that all of us have an interest in not seeing the Germans paralyze themselves in violent political debate over Ostpolitik or because excessive hope from their dealings with the East are frustrated by failure.

Vietnam

Since you saw DeGaulle, we have had no serious problems with the French about Vietnam. Last fall they were concerned that you might re-escalate the war and they would still prefer us to exert pressure on Thieu to "broaden the base." Since the French continue to maintain channels to Hanoi you might want to make a point of impressing on Pompidou your determination to protect our forces if they in turn should be subjected to Communist escalation. In discussing the subject, you may wish to:

-- Express appreciation for France's hospitality for the Paris talks.

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-- Outline the current status of the talks, Vietnamization, the shift in public opinion in the U. S. following your November 3 speech and attendant problems for the other side.

-- Emphasize our concern over our prisoners of war and express your appreciation for France's efforts to obtain information about the prisoners and your hope that the French will continue to cooperate.

Heroin

Pompidou is aware of your personal interest. French cooperation since you wrote to Pompidou in November has been excellent. (The French could still increase men and money for detection of smuggling and laboratories and we could use their help in persuading the Turks to eliminate poppy production. You may wish to:

-- Say our working levels are in full agreement regarding their mutual efforts thus far to surpress the heroin traffic.

-- Emphasize that this critical problem will require the personal attention of both Presidents if ultimate success is to be achieved.

Monetary Problems

The French may still be interested in increasing the price of gold, and you should be careful to avoid saying anything that could be construed by them as encouraging this line of thought. While we have no financial points that we wish to raise with the French, it would be of value for you to probe Pompidou's attitudes on financial questions. If Pompidou expresses doubt about the adequacy of the present international monetary system, you might agree that the current system is not perfect, and make the point that the best way to avoid problems is for the major financial nations to consult closely and continuously.

Future of Europe

In that you provided Pompidou with an overview on the future of Europe at your last meeting, you may wish to probe further his own concept of future trends, to include:

-- Western Europe relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and the respective roles he visualizes for France and the U. S.

Change of U. S. Ambassador to France

NOTE: You were provided a separate addendum on this yesterday suggesting that you inform Pompidou of your decision to accept the resignation of Ambassador Shriver and that you understand Ambassador Shriver has already discussed this with President Pompidou. (Amb. Shriver was to have informally advised Pompidou of his decision to resign just before Pompidou's departure for the U. S. Secretary Rogers has also informed Ambassador Lucet of the fact of Shriver's resignation and Lucet has indicated that Shriver's replacement, Mr. Arthur K. Watson, would be acceptable.) You may wish to make the following points:

- You intend to accept Ambassador Shriver's resignation.
- You intend to nominate Mr. Arthur K. Watson as Ambassador Shriver's replacement, subject to his acceptability to the French Government and confirmation by the U. S. Congress.
- You hope to proceed with the change sometime during the month of March.

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