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PA/HO, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
June 9, 2005

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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February 8, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FILE

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with Robert McNamara  
and John Connally on Tuesday, February 8, 1972  
at 3:15 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
John Connally, Secretary of the Treasury  
Robert McNamara, President, World Bank  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant to the  
President for National Security Affairs

Mr. McNamara: The cartoons here are impressive.

The President: I have seen cartoon collections in various Presidential libraries. Cartoons were especially influential before TV.

Let me ask you, Bob, about your trip.

Mr. McNamara: The situation is bleak. Even Ceylon is highly unstable. 14,000 young people are in prison. [That would be like 235,000 in the U.S. equivalent.] Nepal is completely dependent on India; they currently need \$8-10 million in economic aid. The mood in India is bellicose and self-righteous. In Pakistan, Bhutto is the only possible leader.

The President: What should we do?

Mr. McNamara: Restoring aid won't reduce the stress, but we must have a serious dialogue with India.

The President: We are not offended by India. But Congress is. India hasn't had a more consistent friend than I have been. In fact a large aid program to India is not necessary.

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Mr. McNamara: I am having lunch with Jha. We must restore the \$87 million aid commitment and work out the debt rescheduling. There will have to be a consortium meeting.

The President: Who should be our emissary? I am the best man to sell the Indian program. But let me ask you frankly: Is it worth normalizing our relations? Why should we give the \$87 million? The \$10 billion we gave them since their independence only gained us contempt and hatred.

Mr. McNamara: It would get us into a political dialogue now. It would make a difference.

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