

32615\*

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
(Eyes Only Attachment)

ACTION  
September 15, 1971

Q

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: French Parliamentarians

Ambassador Watson has sent you a message (Tab A) advising you that a group of 13 young French Deputies will be in the US October 3-12. (They will be in Washington October 3-7 and then return on October 10 or 11 after visiting some Congressional districts.)

This is the third round of a very successful exchange program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Ambassador Watson considers that this is a worthy group which is beginning to make its political weight felt in the lower house. I understand informally from State that the group has several really fine people, all forty or younger. Ambassador Watson urges you to meet with them. He does not urge that the President meet with the group, though he suggests that perhaps they could be invited to a White House function to enable them at least to get a glimpse of the President.

The leadership on the US side for this group has come from Congressmen Riegle and Foley; Ambassador Watson understands that they will ask you to receive the group and perhaps arrange a call on the President. John Lehman points out that these particular Congressmen should under no circumstances be invited onto the White House grounds (they are active in the "dump Nixon" campaign). Thus, if you wish to receive the group of French Deputies (without Congressional involvement) as Ambassador Watson urges, it would be well to do so through State prior to any request from the Congressmen.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That you agree to receive the group of 13 Deputies, and that this be arranged through State.

Approve

Date/Time

5 OCT -

Disapprove

(Amb. Watson informed)

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(Eyes Only Attachment)

DOS, NSS, Review Completed.

CONFIDENTIAL

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2. That you indicate whether you wish us to suggest to the Social Office that the French Deputies be invited to an appropriate White House activity during that period.

Yes, good idea check & see what's

No, do not bother \_\_\_\_\_

*Possible upset  
from Committee*

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**EYES ONLY**

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ZNY WATSON  
O 140839Z ZYH  
FM PARIS  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE

ZNY  
C O N F I D E N T I A L EYES ONLY 140839Z SEP 71 [Redacted]  
FOR MR. KISSINGER  
FM AMBASSADOR WATSON, PARIS 416

THIRTEEN YOUNG FRENCH DEPUTIES WILL BE IN THE US OCT. 3-13 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD ROUND OF VERY SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE FORD FOUNDATION. THE INSPIRATION ON THE FRENCH SIDE HAS BEEN CHAULIOT DEPUTE ALAIN TERRENOIRE WHO WILL LEAD THE GROUP IN OCTOBER. ON THE AMERICAN SIDE CONGRESSMEN DONALD REIGLE OF MICHIGAN AND THOMAS FOLEY OF WASHINGTON HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN THIS BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO US-FRENCH RELATIONS.

I UNDERSTAND MESSRS. REIGLE AND FOLEY WILL BE ASKING YOU TO RECEIVE THE FRENCH GROUP AND TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT A VERY BRIEF CALL ON THE PRESIDENT. THE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH GROUP ARE ALL ABOUT FORTY YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER AND ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO MAKE THEIR POLITICAL WEIGHT FELT IN A LOWER HOUSE STEEPED IN THE WAYS OF THE PART. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE VALUABLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A SESSION WITH YOU AND I HOPE YOU CAN WORK THEM INTO YOUR CALENDAR. THIS PLUS A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR TRIP, BUT IN ALL GOOD FAITH I CANNOT RECOMMEND THE LATTER. IF, HOWEVER, AN APPROPRIATE PRESIDENTIAL FUNCTION TOOK PLACE WHEN THE GROUP HAPPENED TO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, PERHAPS OUR FRENCH FRIENDS COULD AT LEAST CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE PRESIDENT.

WARM REGARDS.

WATSON

3221

*Hal -  
Fisher Home at  
SAIS is the coordinator  
for this project -  
for -*