

"The energy challenges of the French-American relations from 1969 to 1974"

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Thanks to a research grant from the History Project, with support from the Institute for New Economic Thinking, I had the opportunity to visit the United States of America for ten days in 2015, and to go through several US diplomatic archives. The reading of these documents, along with the opportunity to meet and interview several former U.S. and French officials of the Nixon and Pompidou presidencies, helped me to add context to my research work and to access some invaluable materials for my analysis of the U.S. foreign policy and oil policy back to the 1970s.

While in Washington D.C., I could access several U.S. Department archives located at the National Archives Center of College Park, Maryland. I went through files related to the European Economic Community, UK-US conversations, Iraq, Nigeria, and energy questions. I had the chance as well to view copies of some diplomatic materials now moved to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California (back in 2010), including the collection related to the Cabinet Task Force on Oil Imports documents.

I also chose to consult some Congressional archives located at the Center for Legislative Archives, on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington D.C., estimating that U.S. Congress (like the French Parliament) had a huge influence on the national energy policy. I went through energy-related files of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the Senate Special Subcommittee on Investigations on Oil Fields, and the Senate Subcommittee on Multinational corporations. I also reviewed related subject files, such as documents on energy policy, operations in foreign currencies, and Soviet Détente policy.

Additionally, I met with a Mexican colleague studying at the Georgetown University and we are now considering writing a two-writer academic article on the relations between space race and energy policy regarding the 1973 and 1978 oil crises. I am currently working on a personal paper analyzing the French-American policy of cooperation in the field of space research from Charles de Gaulle to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (1958-1981). It could be published, in the coming months, in *Hermès*, the scientific review of the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* (CNRS).

Moreover, being in Washington D.C. at the time allowed me to attend some historic events, including a conference organized by the Richard Nixon Foundation on "Nixon Legacy

Forum: Détente and Arms Control with the USSR". With the participation of former U.S. officials Arthur Hartman (Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs), Winston Lord (Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs), Jan Lodal (Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense for Policy) and Philip Odeen (Head of Defense of the NSC), the event attempted to discuss Nixon's behind-the-scenes diplomacy toward USSR including the Détente and arms-control policies.

While in New York City, few days later, I used a large part of my time to seek out some books I could not find in France. Indeed, working on the French-American relations during the 1970s, I could not use only French books, and being in the United States of America gave me the opportunity to add English-language book and article references to my bibliography.

I also went to the Rockefeller Archive Center, for the Winthrop Rockefeller papers and the Near East Foundation Records (especially the AMINOIL papers). Thanks to the help of an archivist there, I focused my research on the Nelson A. Rockefeller Personal Papers and Vice Presidential Records (Series 19, Foreign Affairs), along with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (Foreign Policy Association and Council on Foreign Relations Records), Graham Molitor Papers, Ford Foundation and Trilateral Commission Papers. Due to limited time, I only had few time to go through all of these documents but I noted their references and took a close look at these documents for completing my own research paper.

Finally, travelling to the United States of America offered me the unique chance to see the places where the history actually happened and to build a personal image in my mind of these places while writing my Master dissertation. Visiting the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. and the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, walking in front of the Department of Energy and the Watergate Office Complex in Washington D.C. helped me to give some context to my story of U.S. policies.