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Scowcroft file

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

DECLASSIFIED w/ portions exempted  
EO. 13526 (b)(1), (b)(7) GPO 3.3

NSC 08-91 #28

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

NSC Review 3/17/11

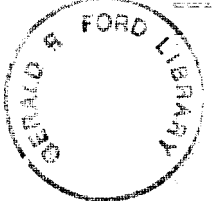
By dal NARA, Date 9/2/12

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Dr. James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, July 24, 1975  
4:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
The White House

President: [With the House vote refusing to lift the aid ban.] Greece is down the drain and so is Turkey. Hold those base negotiations with Greece.



Play it cool. We'll fight for the bases in Turkey, but shouldn't assume we'll save them.

Schlesinger: I think we'll start to lose them next week.

Scowcroft: The Turks are most appreciative of how hard you worked and that will temper their bitterness.

President: It is a terrible blow and a fateful decision.

Schlesinger: It is as fateful as the Dulles decision in '54.

President: What is your recommendation?

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Schlesinger: Yes, but if you would rather not, [redacted]

[redacted]  
Scowcroft: My recommendation would be to go back [redacted] and prod him for a decision.

President: Yes, since we asked his views before.

Schlesinger: [redacted]

President: What would NSC recommend?

Scowcroft: I would have to check. Off-hand, I am not sure. I would let the current situation clarify at least.

President: I don't think I should make a decision until we see what is going to happen.

Schlesinger: [redacted]

President: That is a good way to drive [redacted] over the edge.

Schlesinger: A few points on your trip. First, on German offset. You should discuss it with Schmidt because we will get a new Jackson-Nunn amendment if we don't get something.

President: What was Jackson-Nunn?

Schlesinger: That the Europeans must put up enough funds to offset the additional cost of U.S. troops in Europe.

President: The last time I spoke to Schmidt he was pretty adamant.

Scowcroft: I think you will have to make him aware of the Hill pressures.

President: Absolutely.

Schlesinger: Helsinki. Ellsworth will go along on the understanding that if it's more people than you and Kissinger, he will sit in.



President: I have decided on Kissinger, Scowcroft, and Stoessel. If there are expanded meetings, that is a different matter. But usually it has been just that.

Schlesinger: Ellsworth is touchy. If he weren't sure he would be in the meetings, I think I would just as soon send Bergold.

President: I think I can only say it will be the four I have mentioned.

Schlesinger: I think I should send Jim Wade [Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, ISA] as a resource, then.

SALT violations: Whether their turning on the radar was a violation is a question. Some at DOD would say it was. But when we brought it up in the SCC, they stopped, and that is what SCC is for. They have been probing the boundaries of the agreement. When we find them doing so, we should call them on it, as we have.

President: I agree.

Schlesinger: The biggest problem is missile size. They rejected our unilateral statement on size. The issue is in the future on SS-19. The propellant of the SS-17 is vastly superior to the SS-19. It would be 50% better with the SS-17's propellant. With that the SS-19 would be bigger than the SS-9, which we said in '72 we had limited. The Soviets have behaved better than I anticipated they would. They have pushed the limits of the agreement but we can't expect otherwise.

The biggest worry is telemetry encryption. But you can hardly call that a violation.

President: If we call them on it, they will just accelerate.

Schlesinger: It will be all done in five years anyway.

President: In the light of the Turkish vote, should we proceed with SALT II?

Schlesinger: I would, because we can still limit the numbers. What we cannot do is monitor qualitative improvements.

President: I would like to know more about what we lose and what we can move, etc.



Schlesinger: In sum, I think there are no clear violations, but there are ambiguities. Your press conference statement was too categorical.

President: I agree.

Schlesinger: General Walters. I think he should be retained.

Scowcroft: Henry and I agree.

[There is some discussion.]

President: If the Special Prosecutor can clear him, I have no objection. I hear only the best about him.

Schlesinger: We are under increasing pressure on intelligence. Bill Miller [of the Church Committee] is indicating they want an intelligence community which responds equally to the two branches. That is impossible. Another indication is Pike starting up his committee. His staff guy said he wanted everything on intelligence, including the 5-year projection for planning. In the past no one has gotten the 5-year plan. He demanded them, even without a letter. We said no, but you will have to draw a line. The other area of deterioration is on warrantless wiretaps. These are now running out and there is a problem on approval. The Attorney General now wants approval of overseas taps and surveillance.

Scowcroft: This is a serious problem. We can probably get by one more renewal, but we have to face up to it.

President: Back to the Pike thing, you are right, but where do we go from here?

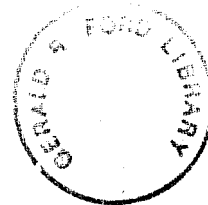
Schlesinger: The staff isn't cleared yet, so we have some time.

President: What is your relationship with Pike?

Schlesinger: Friendliness tinged with touchiness.

President: I would be inclined to talk to Pike personally -- without the staff present. Otis obviously is trying to justify the faith of the House in him and show he has more muscle than Nedzi. I'm not sure he understands these ramifications.

Schlesinger: I'd be delighted to. We have referred it now to Rod Hills.



President: That is O.K., but someone should go to Pike. What is the next problem?

Schlesinger: NASA. There is a paper over here regarding release of certain geometric measurements. There is an Under Secretaries Committee report which recommends the data be released.



