

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

del NARA Date 7/19/04

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Don Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the
President for National Security
Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday - January 2, 1976
9:00 am.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Rumsfeld: First lets discuss Angola and the Christian Science Monitor article [claiming the USG was sending mercenaries].

The second item is the Budget. The Congressional budget procedure is so difficult, with the Budget resolutions, that this may be the biggest Congressional decision of the year -- both as the Budget as a whole and the proportion going to DOD. We therefore ought to get together a massive campaign to bring our full weight to bear. Cabinet meetings, meetings with editors, leadership meetings, and maybe the budget committees to meet with you.

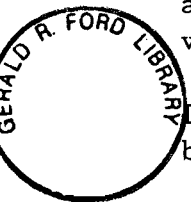
President: I agree, we can't afford that.

Rumsfeld: The fight will be between the 15th of April when the committees report and May 15 when it must be adopted.

President: I think we better set up a series of meetings beginning as soon as Congress gets back. Maybe a breakfast with the top DOD and State people with the top Budget committees and Defense subcommittees.

I finished the Budget with Lynn yesterday. You got \$112.4 billion and \$100.7 billion outlay. The budget looks like \$394.3 billion.

I added the Transitional Quarter figures that State wanted to the FY 77, at the NSC recommended levels.



Rumsfeld: Inouye has asked me to testify on the Security Assistance Bill of '76. I don't see why I should

There are briefings of candidates on national security matters. What should be done, and is DOD involved?

On the Budget, we should get the message to the people. It should be in the State of the Union address so that the people know the importance of it.

President: We shouldn't get into detail, but it will hit the importance of defense strength. It will come when Henry is in Moscow. We should take account of that.

Rumsfeld: Foster, etc. have asked for a white paper on SALT violations. I think it is a good idea. Here is one I did to respond to Proxmire.

Scowcroft: There is a classified one. Let me see if we can sanitize it.

Rumsfeld: I am still editing it. But I think I can say things -- which I haven't -- which give it some credibility.

President: I think we have been too much on the defensive about SALT I and Vladivostok. No one has pointed out what has been accomplished by SALT I and Vladivostok. This is how we should start any violations white paper. I don't think the American people fully appreciate our accomplishments. Give Brent a copy of your letter.

Rumsfeld: On the Law of the Sea. Here is a paper. I think if we separate deep sea mining from the rest, we can get a Law of the Sea Treaty. It would take new instructions to the Delegation;

President: If the Senate bill included the effective date of 31 December 76, I will sign it. State should know that.

Scowcroft: Separating deep sea mining could sink the Conference and we would end up with nothing. Let me set up a meeting to discuss it.

Rumsfeld: Minuteman II hardening: the Air Force is lukewarm on this, but I am inclined to support it, in light of SIOP 5.

Scowcroft: I am also, but let me look into it.



President: Let me know what the two of you think.

Rumsfeld: On the NSC staff. I have heard the quality and quantity have declined in the last 18 months. I think it is important that the staff be top-notch.

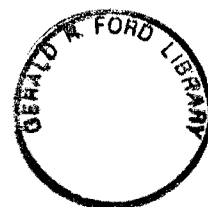
Scowcroft: I agree. I am taking steps ~~but~~ there is definite room for improvement.

President : You can have anyone you need. I agree the staff ought to be first rate.

Rumsfeld: I am not being critical -- but you can't lose Sonnenfeldt, Hyland, Lord, and so on, and not suffer.

Scowcroft: That's why I wanted Hyland back as a first step.

[After the meeting was over the President kept General Scowcroft behind to ask about Strauz-Hupe, complain about the Joan Braden appointment to the position of State consumer advisor, and ask about the earlier idea of sending a ship to the South Atlantic.]



2

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 018343

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL Note
DESCRIPTION Brent Scowcroft's notes from meeting
with Ford and Rumsfeld
CREATION DATE 01/02/1976
VOLUME 3 pages
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 031400765
COLLECTION TITLE National Security Adviser. Memoranda of
Conversations
BOX NUMBER 17
FOLDER TITLE January 2, 1976 - Ford, Rumsfeld,
Scowcroft
DATE WITHDRAWN 06/16/2004
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST GC