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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

Simcha Dinitz, Ambassador of Israel

President Gerald R. Ford

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National

Security Affairs

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, NSC Staff

DATE AND TIME:

Friday, August 9, 1974

6:52 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office The White House

Amb. Dinitz: Let me give you my congratulations.

Pres. Ford: I know you about better than any Ambassador. I hope to continue our close friendly relations.

Prime Minister Rabin received your message and Amb. Dinitz: said to tell you he appreciated it. He sends you every good wish. President Katzir also sends his good wishes. Katzir, you know, is a scientist. The Presidency is a figurehead in our country.

Dr. Kissinger is not a stranger to our area.

Pres. Ford: There are not many places where he is.

Amb. Dinitz: But 32 days shuttling back and forth!

Sec. Kissinger: Negotiating with Syria is maddening. We would arrive in Jerusalem after a day of meeting with them, and then yell at the Israelis.

Amb. Dinitz: So I used Nancy at the airport to calm him down.

Pres. Ford: That honeymoon.

Let me tell you something about my honeymoon. It was when Dewey was running for President. After a football game, we drove to Owaso to hear Dewey. Then we drove to Detroit. I have been paying for that short honeymoon ever since.

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It has been a great pleasure to work with Rabin when he was here as Ambassador, and you and I have a great many friends. And I can assure you that Secretary Kissinger and I will continue to work together with you and pursue our policies. I know his relations with you are the finest possible.

<u>Dinitz:</u> You have many friends in Israel. We are looking forward to your Administration. Secretary Kissinger is the finest Secretary possible. We look forward to continuing cooperation. If I give you troubles, I assure you Dr. Kissinger reciprociates in kind.

Pres. Ford: He doesn't show it. He is always relaxed-looking.

<u>Kissinger:</u> I am more irritable with routine things. I'm at my calmest in crises.

<u>Pres. Ford:</u> The thing I don't like is dealing with petty people. Squabbles in the office. I would much rather give a speech on the floor of the House. Those petty things irritate me. Having to massage egos wears me down.

<u>Dinitz</u>: I lunched with Meany today. Naturally today's activities came up. He said he looked forward to working cooperatively with you. I just wanted to tell you. It is not in my jurisdiction.

Pres. Ford: He has made some very good remarks. I have a note on my desk to call him.

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