MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MR # 10-120; #23 Otate rev. 7/24/01; RAC 9/9/04; CIA-LEL 6/24/40 By dal NARA, Data 8/18/10

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

President Ford

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and

Assistant to the President for National

Security Affairs

Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

PARTICIPANTS:

Monday, May 5, 1975

9:15 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office
The White House

President: Did you see the Draper article in Commentary about the October 1973 war?

<u>Kissinger:</u> He was a TASS correspondent in the 30's. He is violently pro-Israeli. His type is against the step-by-step because they think it would make progress and they are for a comprehensive approach because they think it would lead to a stalemate. They will attack you if you come out for a comprehensive agreement.

I would hold to your CBS line in your press conference. Fisher is pressuring us for a favorable settlement. I would say we are committed to the survival of Israel, not its "security." If you're asked about the '67 frontiers, I would say we still are studying our position.

We have a problem with the Church Committee. They want to interview anyone in State they want, without a State Department officer present. I think there should be a White House order confirming that these interviews should be limited to Presidential appointees and on specific subjects. This goes to Executive Privilege. Every middle-level official will keep a file on all the decisions he disagrees with.

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President: Our problem is they have already done it with the CIA.

<u>Kissinger:</u> If we establish a precedent that Congressional committees can run loose in agencies -- that is worse that what McCarthy did.

President: Give me a memo on it.

<u>Kissinger:</u> I think the Executive Branch is in serious trouble. I think we should put together some of these things like FOI, CIA investigation, etc.

President: Did you read the Levi speech? It was very good. Marsh said Sparkman has asked again for the letters. He is against and says we should be tougher.

Scowcroft: That is not unanimous. Counsel is weakening it.

<u>President: I</u> want to be tough. That is the right side. Now that Vietnam is over, the public interest is not there -- I think we should be firm.

Kissinger: Are you bothered on meeting Sadat in Salzburg?

President: Hell no.

Kissinger: We could move it to Vietnam.

<u>President:</u> It makes no difference. They are just nit-picking. About the Glomar, too. Like does Hughes or the US own it? Who cares?

<u>Kissinger:</u> I wonder if we should have leadership meetings and discuss Turkey and Portugal.

President: The leadership meetings worry me because Burton is there. He wants to get on the Puerto Rico commission. That is an unusual request and I am concerned about his interest. It is a volatile situation and he could stir it up. If we have one, we should structure it so he is not there or....

Kissinger: On the other hand, if he isn't, you can't get anything done.

President: Let's have one.

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<u>Kissinger:</u> On Portugal, point out we should do something and can't do it with 50 people knowing.

<u>President:</u> he commented to me about your letter on refugees. He said the "intent" was bad. I hit him hard on making a tawdry issue of it. He protests he wants cooperation.

<u>President:</u> He tells the Vice President that, and the Vice President believes him. Could we have a joint meeting on Turkey and aid and a smaller one without Burton on Portugal?

<u>Kissinger:</u> I am worried about what the Church Committee will get from roaming through CIA--about giving Church everything that was given to the Rockefeller Commission.

When you meet on Cyprus, don't promise too much on negotiations. We have lost our leverage with the Turks. I don't know what they will give.

The Shah is showing great reservations about us, our role in the Middle East, our military supply to them. Your meeting with him is very important. He has got to know we will be with him in a pinch, because he is very capable but very ruthless. You must be very frank with him -- about a Qaddaffi takeover in Saudi Arabia, for example. No one knows that Nixon promised him support for an Iranian operation against a new regime.

President: Are we moving along on our joint programs?

<u>Kissinger:</u> We are up from 15 to about 24 billion now. We have to figure out how to buy the oil. The best way we have figured is to give non-interest-bearing notes to be paid in three years--that saves us the interest. The other is an oil-for-arms swap, but our government is not structured well that way.

<u>President:</u> That sounds simpler. We are in the throes of putting together an RFC which could be a device we would use.

<u>Kissinger:</u> That is another way. I think you should clinch a deal. If we could get 500,000 barrels a day over what we have, that would be the first cracking of the cartel. If we could get it for \$7-8 a barrel.

President: That would be a boost to the economy.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We may have to promise a fixed price for several years. Then the people will complain the price may drop. I don't think that will happen, when the recession ends.

We have a Jordanian Air Defense problem. We should tell Israel and the Congress soon. You will be criticized that you are holding up Israel but not Jordan. The answer is that Jordan is not as intimately involved and we haven't stopped on Israeli shipments-only in particular areas. We sent them 200 tanks during April.

President: Go ahead. I would like to see that summary of what we gave Israel.

Kissinger: I will bring it in tomorrow.

President: I ad-libbed some words about commitments last Saturday.

Kissinger: Diego Garcia will almost certainly be voted down. Richardson and others urge that we have arms control talks on the Indian Ocean. They would be a fraud. We may have to agree we will do it.



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MR # 10-120; N22

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DECLASSIFIED F.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

MRO139, #14: At ley red 7/30/01

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

By dec_NARA, Date_ 9/25/01

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

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

Security Affairs

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, May 5, 1975

2:21 - 10:30 a.m.

PLACE:

The White House

The Oval Office

Kissinger: I contacted the Nobel Committee about my prize. They said the award was still justified and they wouldn't take it back.

President: The Paris Agreement was a good agreement if it had been kept. Everyone bought the agreement at the time because they were so eager to get out of the war.

Kissinger: Don seems to think we subjected you to unnecessary humiliation.

President: I strongly disagree with Don.

Kissinger: We would have had to disavow Morgan and Zablocki.

President: And Sparkman. I think the House behaved shamefully.

Kissinger: Bruce Morton described the do-nothing Congress. I would strongly support your giving an energy speech. If we have a Middle East crisis, we are in terrible shape. Sidey says all you need for a big boost in popularity is some kind of success.

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President: I plan to give an energy speech.

Kissinger: I met with a group of academicians yesterday on the Middle East. They unanimously supported an overall settlement with the '67 borders and only modest variations. Only Rita Hauser said we couldn't do it if Israel disagreed. If Israel wouldn't agree, she would cut aid.

The Israeli strategy is to get us to call off our reassessment, and reaffirm our commitments -- then they will hit us for aid.

You shouldn't tell Sadat what you will do, but get from him what he will do if you propose it.

Rabin has accepted for 11-13 June. This may be your most difficult meeting as President. They will try to envelope you with friendship. I think you must be tough. They can't proselytize the public, you will not tolerate a stalemate, and we will severely react to a preemptive attack.

There is a US-Israeli Joint Commission. I think Simon should be correct, but no big warm social events.

President: Should I tell him?

Kissinger: Let me tell him first.

Maybe around June 24 you might give a speech. That's the only way we will have a platform on which to stand. I prefer saying we support their survival, not their security, because they would interpret security as the present boundaries.

We should get a lot of international support. The only ones who would oppose us would be those who think we hadn't gone far enough. We could use George Ball, Cy Vance, etc to work on the Congress. The Jews will scream but I think we will have a lot of support.

Israel may come up with a plan of its own.

President: We would have to pick the right forum.



Scowcroft: We need an aid figure for the breakfast

President/Kissinger: Leave the figure blank for Israel.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We have another problem with the Soviets. I was going to meet with Gromyko. I was planning to announce the CSCE summit date at the end of the meeting. That is crazy. My advisers generally think I should go ahead since I had cancelled a meeting in March.

President: I think you could go ahead.

<u>Kissinger:</u> If we meet, they will press me for agreement to a CSCE summit.

President: I want to be very well prepared for my Sadat meeting.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Kreisky wants to give a lunch on Sunday. Maybe a dinner with the families with Sadat at night and a reciprocal lunch the next day.

Jackson and the others will start to hit you about the CSCE summit as a fraud that isn't worthy of a summit. They will mobilize the Baltics and the East European emigrants. It doesn't change the situation of the Baltic States.

President: We must do what we can to explain to them. Can we baby them along? If I or you could talk to them and undercut Scoop.

Kissinger: It is a cause celebre if you meet with them, or even if I do. Let me see what we can do. We could delay the summit, but I doubt we could cancel it.

<u>President:</u> I think if we didn't participate, it would appear we were sulking and going back to Cold War. I don't think the American people would understand.

Kissinger: The public and the Congress want to be tranquilized about the results of Vietnam. But if you don't point out the consequences, in a year we will have real problems. As the speeches come up, we should see if we can get statements in about future challenges—not the dissensions in the past.

<u>President:</u> I notice the Brits complaining about my statement that they were going down the drain economically.

<u>Kissinger:</u> There is no political power without economic power. Britain is on the level of Italy, except for discipline of the civil service.

We have a massive problem with the Indochina refugees. There are about 120,000 now.

The problem is we are without parole authority. INS doesn't want to let them land on Guam.

President: We can't do that. What do we do?

Kissinger: We will draft a letter to Levi for you.

President: What else?

Kissinger: We need an extension of parole authority. If you made a strong statement of the U.S. obligation to help....

Scowcroft: Should you call the leaders in to consult?

President: I don't want to.

Kissinger: I agree. That makes it look like parliamentary government.

We need an NSC on Panama. Maybe after the OAS meeting.

President: I am getting more and more reaction from the Congressmen who are concerned about it.

Kissinger: They are wrong.

President: But the sentiment is there.

Kissinger: We can go ahead, stop, or agree to a treaty and sit on it. If we dig in, we will have massive riots, Latin America will unite behind them, and we will be dragged into international forum after forum.



President: That's what I tell them. But they are focussed on why should we give up the Canal.

Kissinger: We could have a meeting the week after next.

The final issue is on commodities. We can't maintain the position that the market should regulate commodities. All the European industrial countries are reviewing their position.

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