SEGRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Secretary of State Kissinger

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

Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Friday, November 21, 1975

9:30 a.m.

PLACE:

Oval Office

The President: The UN took the vote just on behalf of the Greek Cypriots. What does that do?

<u>Kissinger:</u> It makes it tougher. I talked to Denktash. They don't trust Makarios. Wayne Hays ought to do us some good.

The President: The Christian Science Monitor says Makarios is the problem.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We will get the Mao books over here today. I would read it for atmosphere, not specifics. The atmosphere for the advance is very good.

We have stared them down. What they respect is firmness.

There is a difference between me and my people. They believe we should make some progress on Taiwan. I am having the scope paper on that redone.

The President: That is right. We aren't in a position to do anything this time.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We had an effusive reply from Brezhnev -- only three days after we sent our letter.

The President: That is very forth coming -- damned good.

<u>Kissinger:</u> I think we should get another Vladivostok agreement on cruise missiles and Backfire. Then we could work out an agreement and Brezhnev could come by April. That would keep the Middle East quite. We need to have an NSC meeting, or maybe a principals - only Verification Panel meeting.

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The President: I would have Clements attend also, not just Rumsfeld.

<u>Kissinger</u>: If we get the total reduced to 2300, it would take the Soviets out of cruise missiles. We would be permitted 200 on SLCMs as an offset to Backfire. We would count ALCMs over 600 as MIRV and ban them on other than heavy bombers.

They have about 1450 ICBM and about 900 SLBMs. They will be squeezed out of cruise missiles. We would need a side letter from Brezhnev putting a ceiling on Backfire. You don't have to commit yourself now. Brezhnev wouldn't invite me without a willingness to negotiate.

Without Congress, we would have the Soviet--Chinese triangle working again. I think we should tell the Chinese I am going to Moscow. The Soviet angle is what keeps the Chinese under control.

The President: When we hung tough on the Peking visit, it obviously worked.

<u>Kissinger/President</u>: [Discussion of Manila; Tokyo; Hawaii. Mrs. Ford is staying over in Hawaii.]

<u>Kissinger:</u> They want to give a private dinner for you. It would be Teng, Brent, tell Solomon not to hint that it might be Mao. That is physically impossible.

I am meeting with the Church Committee. I hear we wants a confrontation. I plan to be tough.

The President: I think you should be very firm. The country is not behind the Committees.

<u>Kissinger:</u> The assassination report looks complete but it is very sloppy and biased.

[Discussion of the Schneider affair]

The President: There is one thing. Marsh is going to talk to Brent. Pike says there is a secret agreement on SALT I. Something about a cable from Alex Johnson.

<u>Kissinger:</u> That must be this same crap about the 70 missiles. All we did is to get Dobrynin to confirm what I had already said in a press conference and in instructions to the bureaucracy.

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The other thing was the 54 Titans. We agreed that if we got rid of the Titans we wouldn't replace them with submarines. That was in our defense budget. There are no other secret agreements.

The President: Pike is grasping at straws, now that he is declining.

<u>Kissinger</u>: I will destroy him on this one. We must avoid a contempt action while we are in China.

The President: Gravel was very good on the Law of the Sea the other day.

<u>Scowcroft:</u> He was, and his statistics are more recent than Stephens's -- It negates Stephens's argument that time is running out.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Gravel was terrible on Vietnam, but he has recently been very sound.

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