

MEMORANDUM

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~ THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED w/ portions exempted
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3
MR # 09-45 #2
NSC letter 9/25/09
By dal NARA, Date 3/12/10

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Gerald Ford
Dr. Henry Kissinger, Secretary of
State and Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
William E. Colby, Director of
Central Intelligence
General Vernon Walters, Deputy
Director of Central Intelligence
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME:

September 26, 1974
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office
The White House

SUBJECT:

Briefing on 40 Committee Activities

President: This meeting is to give me insight into how this works and to help us plan what to do in the future. My views are set: The 40 Committee's activities are essential. I think what I said was necessary. It wouldn't have been right for me to say it didn't happen on my watch.

Anything you think is right, you should recommend to the 40 Committee or me. If it is turned down, that is okay, but don't you change your approach.

Colby: To have you stand up and support us is reassuring. We get kicked around but your support is good for morale.

First, let me talk about our procedures. The instructions are clear about clearance, and we follow it meticulously. Usually recommendations come from us. Sometimes they come from Dr. Kissinger or an Ambassador, but usually they come from us.

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Kissinger: Even when I suggest it, Bill goes and develops the paper. Our paper gives the policy without names, usually. It goes to the 40 Committee and is usually approved by paper vote. If it is unusually sensitive, we have sometimes done it with you outside the Committee.

..... is the only one of those that is ongoing. The Ambassador usually knows of it. If the Ambassador objects, we will bring up his objections, but he can't overrule it by himself. Where money is involved, we use the reserve; OMB gives the okay and we notify the Committee Chairmen. Sometimes the amounts are small and we brief in general overall terms.

I have decided that any 40 Committee action will be briefed to the oversight committee.

President: How about those not going through the 40 Committee?

Colby: I don't have secrets from them. They are up the wall about

President: Yes, they really are. I think if we establish a good track record with them we will be better off.

Colby: There are a very few of these. One has been

Kissinger: That got going outside the Committee because the President made a commitment so there was no reason to go through the Committee. The decision had already been made.

Director Colby then ran through the current programs, as follows:

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- Vietnam
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President: Thank you very much for this briefing.



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E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3
MR # 09-45, # 3
NSC letter 3/2/10

By dal NARA, Date 3/12/10

SECRET

MEETING WITH DCI WILLIAM E. COLBY

The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

To brief you fully on the operation of the NSC 40 Committee and on activities conducted under the general direction of the Director of Central Intelligence.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Any covert activities conducted under the general direction of the Director of Central Intelligence are initially reviewed by the 40 Committee of the National Security Council and then submitted to you for decision. There are a number of such activities ongoing. This briefing will familiarize you with them and with the system for their review and approval.

B. Participants: William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence; *Walters* ~~William Nelson~~, Deputy Director of CIA; Secretary Kissinger; and Lt. General Brent Scowcroft.

C. Press Plan: ~~Photo by White House photographer only. The fact of the meeting will be announced but not the subject.~~ *None*

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I want to be fully informed on the covert actions which are now underway.
2. I would also appreciate a brief review of the reconnaissance program. I understand the reconnaissance schedule also is reviewed each month by the 40 Committee.

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3. I intend to continue the review procedures of the 40 Committees. I want to emphasize the importance I place on a thorough analysis of these activities, balancing potential gain against potential costs and risks.
4. As I said in my press conference of September 17, these activities are conducted in the national interest of the United States. I do not intend to yield to public pressures on this subject, which come from only a small minority. We will continue to do what is right for the country.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 017722

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL Memorandum of Conversation

TITLE Ford, Kissinger, Colby, Vernon Walters
DESCRIPTION Annotated draft of memcon

CREATION DATE 09/26/1974
VOLUME 4 pages

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 031400245
COLLECTION TITLE National Security Adviser. Memoranda of
Conversations
BOX NUMBER 6
FOLDER TITLE September 26, 1974 - Ford, Kissinger,
Colby, Vernon Walters

DATE WITHDRAWN 05/11/2004
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST GG

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Originals filed Scowcroft Memcons.

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY ll, NARA, DATE 5/5/04

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CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER



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