

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE

**DECLASSIFIED**  
E.O. 12958 SEC. 3.6

*OSD*  
ME 08-91-#9: ~~at~~ dec 10/24/08

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

BY *dal* NARA DATE 3/10/09

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald Ford  
James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy  
Assistant to the President for National  
Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, January 7, 1975  
2:30 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
The White House

Schlesinger: You look good.

President: I should, after all this exercise and respite [skiing at Vail].  
I go slowly enough.

Schlesinger: It can be hard on the knees.

President: I have had that problem for 40 years. I do exercise etcetera.  
I was operated on last two and one half years ago.

Schlesinger: I probably need an operation myself soon.

President: I waited too long, but they have learned new techniques in the  
meantime. You don't have to worry about infection like when I had the  
first one in 1932. [They discussed operations and doctors.]

What can I do for you today?

Schlesinger: I have a variety of things.

First, the Congressional items: John Stennis and the transfer of  
the Suitland facility. He had the heads buy bonds to build a NASA facility.

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
*Downgraded 5/25/04*



This is the first time Stennis has hit me on this. I think he feels he enticed them to buy the bonds and he is out on a limb. The issue is he failed his people.

President: How many people are involved?

Schlesinger: About 2000. The Navy would like to move -- because of the high cost of living.

President: If Mathias and Beall come to you, what will you say?

Schlesinger: That the Navy wants the Mississippi facility.

President: Can it be justified?

Schlesinger: Not really. The cost of living is the only one, but that is not very persuasive.

President: You will have to take the heat.

Schlesinger: That I understand. But you said you wanted no moves in this direction.

President: I will take the position that I assume the Navy can justify it and that it makes sense.

Schlesinger: I will try to hold Stennis off, but I just wanted your prohibition lifted.

President: Okay. But Beall and Mathias are yours.

Schlesinger: I am worried about Pastore. He wants that to replace the stuff and he wants the Navy out of Newport.

Hebert said he didn't want any publicity before he got back to town. It is in the Wall Street Journal today.

President: I will get the paper. But I plan to give a speech Sunday authorizing the thing. I will call Eddie.

Schlesinger: The next issue is Jackson. I have tried to meet with him on Vladivostok. He has delayed talking with me. I could fly out to Washington to talk to him.



President: What is his objection? He wants us to renegotiate for lower numbers?

Schlesinger: That is a non-starter. He wants publicity, but he also has a problem. One problem is in cruise missiles. The Vladivostok stories were about ballistic missiles; now it isn't included. It is better for us to get it out rather than have him do it. He will say it's a concession after the fact.

President: How much substantive difference does it make?

Schlesinger: The real difficulty is to have this issue wrung out of us. He will work it like he has the G-class submarine issue. I think it should be aired prior to his hearings.

President: How?

Schlesinger: I haven't thought it out.

President: Is it still a live issue?

Scowcroft: Yes, we said we would consider it as applying just to cruise missiles. But we have an uphill fight.

President: The fact is that at Vladivostok we used the term "ballistic." DOD hasn't been all that eager for cruise missiles. Is there a substantive issue?

Schlesinger: It is not clear to me that we can deploy one before 1982-83. As a substantive issue it is not that important. That is only important to handle so Scoop can't make an issue of it.

President: Can't we say that actually we were talking about ballistic missiles and substantively it doesn't make much difference? We will be negotiating further reductions, and knocking cruise missiles out of the R and D program as a first step.

Schlesinger: The cruise missiles have been worrisome to the Soviets.

President: If the Vladivostok agreement is so fragile it can't survive this in the Senate, we are in bad shape.

Schlesinger: The trouble is that this could be a cause celebre. We could perhaps announce our position -- if it is as Brent says.



Scowcroft: The problem with publicity is it freezes our position or forces public discussion of our quid pro quo for falling off it.

President: Didn't Congress knock out the money for cruise missiles the year before last? Get me the record on that and how hard Scoop worked to keep it in.

Schlesinger: Scoop worked hard to keep it in. That will make him more bitter.

President: Let's get the whole story.

Schlesinger: Congressmen are prone to change arguments.

President: We'll look it over, but my intuition is as I have indicated. I don't think it is that significant an issue.

Schlesinger: Scoop can't make a very strong argument on Vladivostok because it is an equal agreement. The statement Perle wrote up is not very good; it says "the MIRV numbers are wantonly high." Actually he had the same sort of MIRV numbers in his earlier proposal. I think we are not in bad shape.



P/Schlesinger 7 Jan 75  
7 Dec

2:30

S You look good  
P I should, after all this exercise & surgery - I go slowly enough.

S It can be hard on a horse.

P I have had that pain for 40 yrs. I do exercise etc. Was operated on last 2 1/2 yrs ago.

S I probably will an open myself soon

P I wanted to hang, but they had learned how to do in a meantime. Don't know to worry about infection like when I had, there in 1932.  
(Decided operate doctor)

What can I do for you today?

S I have a variety of things

1<sup>st</sup> thing is: John Stennis. Transfer of Southland facility. He had a bonds very hard to build <sup>a</sup> NASA facility. 1<sup>st</sup> time Stennis he hit me on the. I think he feels he enticed them to buy a bonds & he is out on a limb. The issue is he fooled his people.

P How many people involved?

S About 2000. The Army would like to move - higher cost of living.

P If Matthews & Beall come to you, what will you say?

S That a Army wants a Miss. facility.

P Can it be justified?

S Not really. Cost of living only one, but that not very persuasive.

P You will have to take a heat

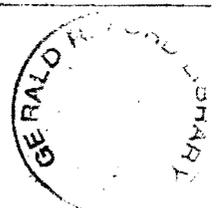
S That understood. But you find you wanted to move in this direction.

P I will take position that I assumed Army can justify it and that it makes sense.

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AUTHORITY per mlr 08-91, #9

BY W NARA, DATE 8/17/09



S I will try to hold Stearns off, but I just wanted your probations lifted.

P Ok. But Bull/Inattentive on yours.

S I worried about Pastor. He wants that to replace a stuff - heavy took out of Newport.

Hebert said he didn't want publicity before he got back to town. It is in WST today.

P Get a paper. But I plan to give speech Sunday outlining a thing. I will call Eddie.

S Next issue is Jackson. I had tried to meet w/ him on Wed. He hasn't <sup>delayed</sup> ~~agreed~~ to meet talk ~~it~~ yet. I could fly out to Calvert to talk to him.

P What is his objection? Re-negotiate for lower #'s?

S That's a non-starter. He wants publicity, but he also has a job. One job is in cruise missiles. The Wed talks were ballistic; now it isn't included. Better for us to get out, rather than have him do it. He will say something after a fact.

P How much substance does it make.

S The real difficulty is to have this issue coming out of us. He will work it like he has a class act issue. I think it should be aimed prior to his leaving.

P How?

S I haven't thought of it. Is it still ~~it~~ a live issue?

S Yes, but we have uphill fight <sup>as applying just to cruise missiles</sup>

P Fact is that at Wed we used term "ballistic". DoD hasn't been all that eager for cruise missiles. Is there a sub. issue.

S It not clear to me that we can deploy one before 1982-83. A sub. issue it is not that



important. That's my important & handle to  
Scop can't make an issue of it.

P Can't say actually ~~it was~~ we were talking  
but ballistic & substantially it doesn't make  
much diff. We will be going further reduction  
& knocking cruise missiles out of C R + O program  
as a 1st step.

S Cruise missiles have been necessary to Sovs.

P If Vlad agreement is fragile it can't survive  
this in Senate, we in bad shape.

S Trouble is this could be a course error. We could  
perhaps announce our position - if it is as Hunt says

Sc Perk not public to is it necessary to announce as face public  
discussed from point for future of B.

\* P Doubt why ~~think~~ know for cruise  
missile appear before last. Get me a word  
of that & how hard Scop wanted to keep it in

S Scop wanted hard to keep it in. That will  
make him more bitter.

† P Let's get the whole story.

S Congressmen ~~is~~ are prone to change arguments

P Will look it over, but my intuition is as I  
have indicated. I don't think it is that significant on  
basis.

S Scop can't make a big strong argument as Vlad  
because it is an agreement. Statement Perk wrote  
up not very good "Missile is mountain high."

Actually ~~they~~ have some sort of <sup>plan</sup> it's in his  
earlier proposal. I think we are not in  
bad shape.

