

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Admiral John S. McCain  
Lt General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

TIME AND DATE: Thursday, March 6, 1975  
12:15 p.m. (10 minutes)

PLACE: The Oval Office

[The press and photographers are admitted.]

Admiral McCain: My son Johnny is doing well. Has a squadron of A-7s at Jacksonville. I am a sub man.

The President: I notice. I was always under the impression you were a flyer.

Admiral McCain: No. My father, you know, was in the Pacific and at the peace treaty ceremony.

The President: I served under Halsey.

Admiral McCain: I am speaking from personal authority. Your leadership of the Armed Forces is just outstanding.

The President: You shouldn't say it in front of these people.

[The press is ushered out.]

Admiral McCain: I just wanted to make a couple of points. The importance of Diego Garcia and Panama. I greatly admire Bunker and Bruce. Bunker said we had to give something in Panama. We are disintegrating the

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)  
DECLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
RAC 7/10/00 NLF-MOC-10-1-1-4

AUTHORITY NSC Guidelines  
BY blc NLF, DATE 6/12/08

Caribbean Command. The morale of our non-career and enlisted men is inspiring all the time.

[Story of news clippings dropped on the DMZ] I have no use for the Post and New York Times.

I want to tell you what a fine job you are doing by example and precept. When I was on the DMZ, John was a POW. They beat him so he almost died -- they broke his leg and arm in three places.

We are going to need air and naval power in the future. The army comes in last. That is why we need Diego Garcia and Guantanamo. We must realize the importance of the oceans -- economic, political and military.

The President: What is your view of Holloway? I don't know him well.

Admiral McCain: He is okay but has a hard job because his predecessor was no good. His homeporting was a disaster; our Navy doesn't have to depend on overseas bases. Holloway will do a good job.

The President: I was surprised that his Deputy is retiring.

Admiral McCain: I don't know why. In PACOM was George Brown -- he is first-rate. Holloway was there. Weyand also and he is good. Now at the top we have men who all were in Vietnam.



C 1400

THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED  
*[Handwritten signature]*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

March 5, 1975

MEETING WITH ADMIRAL JOHN S. McCAIN, JR.

Thursday, March 6, 1975  
12:15 p.m. (15 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger *[Handwritten initials]*

I. PURPOSE

To receive Admiral McCain's views on the current Asian situation.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS:

A. Background: You are receiving Admiral McCain to hear his views on the current Asian situation. Admiral McCain last visited the area about a year ago. He currently is the [Director of the Institute of Strategic Studies at Georgetown University.] *President, United States Strategic Institute.*

Admiral McCain was Commander-in-Chief, Pacific during the height of the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972. He retired when he completed that assignment. Admiral McCain began his Naval career upon graduation from the Naval Academy in 1931. He spent the large part of his career as a submarine commander, and during World War II served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres. His principal assignments prior to CINCPAC were as Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Naval Forces Europe (1967-1968), Vice Chairman of the U. S. Delegation, U. N. Military Staff Committee, with the additional duty of Commander, Eastern Sea Frontier, and Commander, Atlantic Reserve Fleet (1965-1967), and Commander, Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet (1962-1965).

Admiral McCain was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1911. His father, the late Admiral McCain, commanded a carrier task force under Admiral Halsey in the Pacific during World War II, and has a Navy destroyer named in his honor.

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Admiral McCain is married to the former Roberta Wright of Los Angeles. They have three children -- Mrs. Jean McCain Flather (whose husband is a Naval officer), Lieutenant Commander John A. McCain III (who was shot down over North Vietnam as a Navy pilot in 1967, and who returned to the active fleet after his release as a POW in 1973) and Joseph P. McCain. Additional biographical information on Admiral McCain is at Tab A.

- B. Participants: Admiral McCain and General Scowcroft.
- C. Press Arrangements: There will be no photo opportunity, and the call will not be announced.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I am much interested in your views on the current situation in Asia, particularly that in Indochina. Your wealth of experience as our previous Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, during the height of the Vietnam War makes me place particular value on your insights and recommendations.
2. How do you find your current position as Director of Strategic Studies at Georgetown University? I know that it is a well-deserved relief from the onerous responsibilities you had previously, but imagine it gives you a chance for reflection on the broad strategic problems on which you had had an important influence.
3. Where is your son now assigned in the Navy? How has he adjusted to active duty after being a POW in North Vietnam for six long years?



P/ McSain

6 Mar 75

M My son John, being west. Had 5 of A-7 out Jackson  
with. Don set me

P I wrote. I always under impression you were  
a lawyer.

M No. My father, you know was in Pa + ~~the~~ at  
a percentage company.

P I served under Huddy

M Reporting from personal conviction, James  
leadership of a Armed Force is just history

P Should not say it in front of these people  
Pass out

M Just wanted to make a couple of points. Departure  
of Diego Garcia + Panama. I greatly admire  
Bunker + Bruce. Bunker said we had to give  
something in Panama was disintegrating a Carib  
event. The number of our non-combat interest  
was is increasing all <sup>(stay on many clippings chopped and</sup> around  
for Post, NY to)

I don't tell you what a fine job you doing by  
example + precept. When I was on DM 2, John was  
10. They beat him as he almost died - broke  
his legs over in 3 places.

We are going to ward air + naval power in a future -  
any in last. That only Diego Garcia + Guantanamo  
We must realize importance of a war - war, poli  
mit.

P What year since of Holmway. Don't know him well.

M He is but has hard job because professor was  
no good. His background was doctor - and  
never doesn't have to depend on census base.  
Holmway would be good job.

P James recognized that his Deputy is retiring

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY llh NARA DATE 5/13/04

Mr I don't know why. In Peoria was George Brown - he  
is 1st rate. Hollaway was there. Weyand about he  
is good. Now at the top we have men who all  
were in U.S.

