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MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford
Carl Albert, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.
Darrel St. Claire (Hill Strffer
Michael Reed (Hill Staffer)
Howard Yourman, (Hill Staffer)

Israel Yeshayahu, Speaker of the Knesset
Menahem Begin, Leader of the Likud Opposition
Ari Ankorion, Labour
Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, Labour
Mrs. Haika Grossman-Orkin, Mapam
Josef Warhaftig, N. R. P.
Amb. Simcha Dinitz, Israeli Ambassador to the United States
Zvi Rafiah, Counselor, Embassy of Israel
Shmuel Jacobsen (Secretary to the delegation)
Dov Kedem (Interpreter)

DATE AND TIME.

Tuesday - November 11, 1975 10:04 - 10:45 am

PLACE:

11124498, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES . Stat War entrol /11/04

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

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The Oval Office

[The meeting began with presentation of a Hanukah Menorah to the President.]

<u>The President</u>: Let me welcome you to the White House. I have a deep respectfor parliamentary bodies. I spent 25 years in the House with Speaker Albert, and these were among the most challenging years of my lofe. I understand that your delegation comprises many points of view in the Knesset. The Speaker and I were on opposite sides of many issues, but when it came to fundamental issues of national security we were as one. I sense it is the same with you.

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To the extent that the United States can be helpful in the Middle East we are dedicated to that end, though it in the end depends on the parties themselves. I believe the Sinai agreement was a good agreement, and we are determined to continue the progress we made and make further progress. We are dedicated to the survival and security of Israel, and that won't change. As you know, I submitted a bill for \$2.3 billion to the Congress for aid to Israel. I would like to hear from you, unless the Speaker has something.

<u>Speaker Albert:</u> You have spent much time together exchanging ideas. I gave a lunch for them.

<u>Yeshayahu:</u> It is a great honor for us to be received by you, Mr. President. We represent all the parties in the Knesset and we are grateful to you for making your valuable time available to us.

We are a nation which has suffered many tribulations over the years, and no people has a greater yearning for peace. You are the President of a great, courageous and generous people. Fate has placed you at the head of a country which is the hope of freedom-loving people everywhere, including the Jewish people. The establishment of the State Of Israel after World War II and after the killing of six million Jews was an unprecedented act, delivering over a million Jews from bondage. I am one of those. Israel is now a refuge for people fleeing the Soviet Union and other Communist oppression.

The Knesset and the Israeli people send greeting to you, Mr. President, and would be delighted for you to visit Israel. We would like you to see how we are building a state much like the American people did 200 years ago.

There are a number of problems I would like to bring to your attention, particularly in light of the UN resolution on Zionism. We appreciate your words and those of your representatives against that resolution vilifying the State of Israel. The Israeli people continue to stand firm in defense of our country, and we count on your help, as in the past. President Sadat stated here that he was interested in peace and presented moderate views, and yet he made other statements attacking Zionism and Israel and its people. His representatives at the UN joined in the attack against us. The identification of Egypt with the process at the UN coupled with the tremendous arms that Egypt is securing from many sources, both East and West, plus his statements, do not appear to us as a presumption for that peace we are looking for.

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We have recently taken on ourselves the greatest of risks; we began the process of withdrawing from areas we previously held, and giving up oil fields, in the hope that this would contribute to the process of peace. We shall judge the President of Egypt not only by his statements, but also by his deeds.

Permit me to bestow on you the blessing from the book of Samuel -- peace be upon you.

<u>The President</u>: Thank you very much. I am grateful for your invitation to visit Israel. I have never been to Israel. I hope to come there -- the sooner the better. But right now there are a number of problems for me to deal with here. But it is important to visit the Middle East as soon as possible, of course, including Israel.

<u>Begin:</u> Mr. President, we are the victims of a great human phenomenon. Jews in the Soviet Union were oppressed for 60 years after the Bolshevik Revolution. I saw it. After the Six-Day War there was a great awakening of Jewish people wanting to come to Israel. They came in increasing numbers, but as you know, those numbers have been decreasing recently. There are more than 3 million Jews in the Soviet Union. They are being persecuted in many ways. These tragedies go on day after day. It is our plea that you ask Brezhnev to let them go. We are convinced that your intercession will help. Please do something. Especially, there are 40 people now in concentration camps [he hands the President a list of name s], which we ask you to send personally to Brezhnev. We are very grateful for your understanding on this issue.

<u>The President:</u> We will see what we can do to be helpful. I am very sorry to see that emigration has fallen off from 35,000 in 1973, to about 12,000 now. There were some circumstances which intervened. In the problem over U.S. - Soviet trade arrangements, there was a drop in numbers permitted to leave. We will do what we can to help. One way might be to seek a modification of the Trade Act.

<u>Member of the Delegation</u>: The vast majority of the Knesset and of the Israeli people have followed you in the step-by-step process. We now feel we have come to a kind of standstill. The quest for an overall solution has never presented itself. We would like to know that the United States will work with Israel for a joint strategy in the quest for peace. I would ask and suggest whether you will initiate such talks to cooperate with our country?

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<u>The President:</u> We have such close talks and communications with your leaders. Prime Minister Rabin has been here twice and he will come again soon. There must be an overall approach to peace. We will work with your government in that. There are msny problems, but a standstill is not the answer. You can be most assured that this government will work with yours and all others to that end.

Warhaftig: [Reads passage from the Bible in connection with the UN vote].

The President: You are familiar, I am sure, with the statements that have been made by me, by Secretary Kissinger, and by our UN representative. There is unan imity on this. I am sorry we lost the key vote by only two votes.

It was very nice to have had you here.



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November 1975

THE PRISONERS DF ZION IN USSR

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Piotr Pinkhasov 9/73 5 " Yuri Pokh 5/72 $3^{\frac{1}{2}}$ " Haim Renert 3/71 5 " (general) Lev Roitburd 8/75 2 " Isaak Shkolnik 7/72 7 "	
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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

November 25, 1975

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General:

David Lissy says you promised him access to the MemCon of the President's meeting with the Israeli Parliamentarians.

Do you wish us to

Send him a copy of the MemCon

Tell him he may come over and read the MemCon here

Lora

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Maureen x2135 (Room 228, OEOB)

Mary