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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Kissinger: There is nothing in the Soviet letter [the Brezhnev letter of March 17]. They misled us all day long. Voronstov briefed the press that we could have an agreement in two months. He called me and said it didn't meet all our points but was positive. [He describes the letter.] They proposed going back to their January position as a basis.

President: Their idea for reductions has appealed to me.

Kissinger: We have two problems: How to handle the letter so it doesn't do damage next week; and how to conduct our affairs in the government.

I think we are undermining detente. Except for Angola, I think the Soviets are getting a bum rap. I don't believe they have massively increased their forces. It is a gradual trend and will continue no matter what. They have been quiet in the Middle East. Only Angola was out of bounds.

The next thing which will happen is the Democrats will say SALT has collapsed and we have ruined detente. The Democrats may seize the peace issue.

President: Reagan hasn't made headway with his charges as long as we are at peace and moving. SALT is in our national interest. The question is how to proceed.

Kissinger: We could have an NSC meeting late tomorrow. Hand out the letter, warn them against all leaks, and say we want a proposal for the next step within two weeks.

SECRET//NOFORN//XGDS

CLASSIFIED BY we want a proposal for the next
HENRY A. KISSINGER
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(1-3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Impossible to determine

-2-

Scowcroft: It will leak. I would suggest instead that you call in just the principals, show them the note, and tell them you want to think about next steps.

President: I think it should be principals only. Maybe just here in the office -- the three of us, Don, George, and George Bush.

Kissinger: I think Ikle also.

President: Let's have a meeting late Friday with those people. Say it is not to distribute or it will leak. Say start a study the first of next week.

Kissinger: I agree with Brent. Say you just want to think about it over the weekend. Then have an NSC next Wednesday. I would even mention the option of suspending the talks. None of them will want to take the heat for it! [There is discussion of notifying Rumsfeld ahead of the others.]

You could then decide whether to go for one or not. If not, you could respond -- which I don't recommend -- or string out the talks.

President: I see the papers played a tough line on the Jewish meeting.

Kissinger: I don't see how you could have done anything else. [There is some discussion of the meeting, C-130's and transition quarter funding.]

Len Garment says these guys are fund raisers and they need a crisis every few months to keep the money coming in.

I disagree with Don. These guys will not be with you. If you get any, it will be with women like Klutznick.

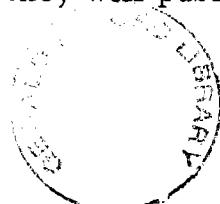
President: I think that is right. And I think I would win in a confrontation.

Kissinger: I met with the Sonny Montgomery Committee. I was tough but I did say we would agree to open talks with North Vietnam. We could send a note through Paris and offer to start talks on outstanding issues -- at a low level.

President: Will it leak?

Scowcroft: Yes. We will have to tell the Committee and they will publish it.

Kissinger: We can say we are discussing MIA's.

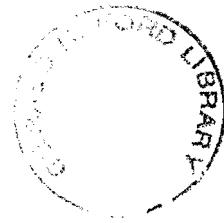


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Scowcroft: Will the Committee drop the embargo amendment in the Security Assistance Bill?

President: That should be a precondition. Let's go ahead, just with talks.

Kissinger: I think we should trim our sails a bit on the Soviet Union. We should keep clobbering them on Angola -- partly to keep the head on the Congress but . . .



~~Jackson's statement is available -~~

~~Not being - call -~~

P/K

1P Mar 76

K There is nothing in a San letter. They wished us all day long. Vorster brought a press we could have agreement in 2 hrs. He called me & said it didn't meet all our points and was very positive.

(Deserves a letter)

They proposed going back to their Jan position as a basis

P Their idea for reductio has appeal to me.

K We have 2 pros: How to handle a letter so it doesn't do damage next week; how to conduct our affairs in a govt.

I think we are undermining detente. Except for Angola, I think Sars are getting a hearing. I don't believe they have massively increased their forces. It is a gradual trend & will continue no matter what. They have been quiet in N.E. Only Angola was out of bounds.

The next thing which will happen is Dennis will say Salt has collapsed & we have ruined detente. The Dennis may seize a place issue.

P Reagan hasn't made headway w/ his changes as long as we are at place & moving.

Salt is in our natl interest. Question is how to proceed.

K We could have a NSC mtg late tomorrow.

Handout - letter, warn against hawks, and say we won't pay off for what they are in 2 yrs.

* S It will be - I would suggest instead that you call in first the principals, then them the

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/08, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY LA NARA DATE 6/16/14



- wty late Fri.
- Check Bush availability

wrti, and tell them you won't think about next ~~stop~~^{stop}.

P I think it should be principals only. Maybe just here in - office - c 3 pres, Dan, George, & George Bush.

R I think I'll also

P Let's have wty (thu Fri. w/ those people. Say not to distributor or it will leak -- say start & study 1st of next week.

K I agree w/ Brent. Say you just want to think about it over a weekend. Then have an NSC mtg Wed. I would even mention a option of suspending talks. None of them will want to take a heat for it. (Discussion about notifying Dan about) You could then decide whether to go for one or not. If not, you could suspend which I don't recommend or string out talks.

P I see some papers played a tough line on a Jewish mtg.

K I don't see how you could have done anything else.

(Some discussion of - mtg, R-130+ & TQ)

Let Garmont stop those guys on fund raisers + try w/ a crisis every few months to keep money coming in.

I obsayee w/ Dan. These guys will not be w/ you. If you get any, it will be w/ someone like # K butts, etc.

P I think that is right. And I think I would win in a confrontation.

K I went w/ some Montgomery guys. I was tough but I did say we could agree to open talks w/ NCR. We could send a note thru Paris + offer



- ~~get~~ ^{get} P a copy of Berlin speech

talks on outstanding issues - at low level
P Well it looks?

S Yes. We will have to tell c Crotti + they will
probably

K We can say we discussing MIA's.

S West - Crotti does + interests of amending Sec.
devis bill?

P That should be a precondition. Let's go ahead, first
w/talks

R I think we should trim our talk a bit on c

S U. We should keep clothing them on Congress -
possibly to keep + live on a long - but

