

Scowcroft

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
 Senator Mike Mansfield, D. -Montana
 Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
 for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Friday - November 5, 1976
 3:25 p.m. - (uncertain)

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Senator Mansfield's Trip to China

Mansfield: Well, I don't know what to say. You got the states but not the votes.

President: It was a helluva campaign.

Mansfield: It was. A good, clean campaign. I think a lot of people had a hard time deciding. Where are you going to go? Stay here?

President: Probably not. None of the kids' friends are left in Virginia. In Grand Rapids we haven't lived since we only had one child. "We'll probably float between California and Vail.

Mansfield: There have been a lot of changes in the Congress. It is going to be a tough bunch for the new guy.

President: And there aren't the leaders anymore. Tip (O'Neill) is not a Rayburn or even an Albert.

Mansfield: I'm not sure even Rayburn could deal with this gang.

We spent a week at Sinkiang. It has a sixth of the land area but only 11 million people. The border has been closed for years, but they are not afraid of the Soviet Union. I went to Peking three times. We heard about Hua Kuo-feng's elevation. They're building a Mao mausoleum. It's most un-Chinese.

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We had a good meeting with Li Hsien-nien, who was very philosophical. He said they have to fire some empty cannon once in a while. Mao's niece was a little sharper with me, but on Taiwan she said it was our problem; they had done their part. I said we had a lot of knots and it took time. She said knots can be untied. I said not if they are wet.

President: Were they belligerent as they were with (Hugh) Scott?

Mansfield: No. I think Hugh sort of asked for it. You have to roll with these people. You can't win an argument with them. Everywhere we went, the line was grief for Mao and saturation with the Mao line.

President: About the Soviets too?

Mansfield: Yes. No change in the hatred there. I think the purge was being planned right along, even maybe before Mao died. I wasn't surprised it happened; only that it was so soon. It's been a helluva year for them -- four earthquakes, Teng, Mao, the purge.

They have a lot of confidence, they aren't afraid of the Soviet Union. They are working hard but have a long way to go. They say the Soviets are going after the West, not after them. They said we should get out of Korea with the UN Command, but they are not pressing us. I said how about our troops in Europe? And they said "That's your problem." I said it is weaker than before, with Greece-Turkey, Italy, Portugal. They said: "Why don't you advise them?"

(There was a little discussion on the Thailand coup. He said they were going back to the old corrupt Thai ways. There was some discussion of Japan and Miki.)

President: I think the Governor doesn't know what he is in for.

Mansfield: He really doesn't. I don't think anyone could. It's a new ball game.

President: There is a big turnover.

Mansfield: They don't play the game the same way.



President: Who will be the new leader?

Mansfield: I don't know. It is really between Hubert and Bob (Byrd). I don't know about his health.

(Discussion of Betty, Steve)

President: How is the Big Sky coming?

Mansfield: I talked to Tippy Huntley. A guy from Michigan bought halp. I guess it's not doing too well. Just getting by. They want to make it a Vail, but it is going very slowly.

President: I see John Melcher won (a Senate seat from Montana).

Mansfield: Yes. He is a good man. He worked hard. A new Republican took his old seat.



P/ Mansfield.
5 Nov 76

✓

M Well I don't know about to say. You got
a starts but not a vote.

P It was a helluva campaign

M It was. I guess, clean campaign. I think
a lot of people had a hard time deciding.
What are you going to do? Stay here.

cong. P Best not. None of the birds friends are left in Va.
Grand Rapids are haven't lived since only had
1 child. But will float Calif - Va.

M a lot of changes in a Cong. It is going to be a
tough battle for a new year.

P and time aren't a leaders only when. Trip is not a Rayburn
or even an Albert

M I don't see even Rayburn could do it at this point.

P Tell me about your trip.

M We spent a week at Sirhing. 16 of land but
only 11 wild people. Better closed for years, but
they not afraid of S.V. Went to Karing's house.
We heard about Hava education, was mause-
lem - most unchristian -

We had a good party w/ her, who was very
philosophical. Said they have to find some
empty rooms. Masu was a little
sharper before, ~~but~~ but on Tarran said
it was over for her. They had done their part
they were ~~factious~~. I said we had a lot of
hunts & take time. She said hunts can
be made. I said not if they wet.

P Well they believe it as w/ Scott

M No. I think it might sort of asked for it.
You have to call out these people. Can't

+ Show Mansfield - earthquake picture + Tangshan

win on argument w/ them.

Everywhere we went a line was grief for
loss of saturation w/ a mass line.

P about a Soviet too?

M

I think a purge was being planned right along
was maybe before we died. I wasn't surprised
it happened; only that it was so soon.

It's been a helluva year for them - 4 earth-
quakes, Teng, Mao, the purge.

They have a lot of confidence, aren't afraid of a S.C.,
are working hard but have a long way to
go. They ~~do~~ say a Soviet is going after

→ a west, not them. They said we should
get out of Korea w/ a UN lead, but not pressing
res. I said how about our troops in E. or
+ I said that you ^{they} were. I said it was
them before, as/G-T, Study, Part. They
said why don't you advise them.

(A little on T-shaped camp. Said they were going
back to a old corrupt T-shai camp)

(a little on Japan + Winkie)

P I think a Gomer doesn't know what he is
in for.

M He really doesn't. I don't think anyone
could. It is a war ball game

P There is a big turnover

M They don't play a game a ~~same~~ way.

P Who will be a new leader?

M I don't know. It's ^{with} bet Herbert + Bob
Don't know about his death

yes. The change
extra natural
that

(Discussion of Bertie, Stone)

P How is a Big Sky coming?

M I talked to Terry A month, a guy from Michigan but he, I guess it not doing too well. Just getting by. They want to make it a book, but it's going very slowly.

P I see Mulchore won.

M Yes. He is a good man. Worked hard a new report took his old seat.

