

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford  
Barbara Hutchinson  
Eugene Kopp  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to  
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Wednesday - October 30, 1974

PLACE: The Oval Office

[Press in]

President: Have you gotten a rest?

Hutchinson: Better as hostages!

President: How long had you been there?

Hutchinson: Since December 1972.

President: How did you happen to get caught?

[Press out]

Hutchinson: They wanted an American diplomat.

President: How did it happen?

Hutchinson: They had planned for a long while and had apparently fingered me. They wanted prisoners released. There was some confusion about where to go because the police had barred the place they first wanted to go.

President: How many were there?

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES  
BY: [initials] NARA, DATE 5/1/04  
State Dept. 2/10/04

Hutchinson: Seven.

President: Were they all terrorists?

Hutchinson: Yes, they all had records.

President: Was there any competition for leadership?

Hutchinson: There were three principals, but one was the charismatic leader, the second the theoretician, and the third got discouraged right away. Just a matter for us of sitting it out.

President: What happened to them?

Hutchinson: The last I heard they were in Panama in hospital gowns, well surrounded.

Kopp: Mexico, the Peruvians and Cuba had refused. We had to put pressure on Panama to take them.

President: Your actions were in the highest tradition of the Foreign Service. It took courage and also a sense of humor.

Hutchinson: It couldn't have happened under a better Ambassador. I had worked for him twice.

President: You should write a book.

Hutchinson: I have already written an article for USIA news.

Kopp: We had one kidnapped and shot in Argentina -- by coincidence I met him just before Barbara was kidnapped.

Hutchinson: I was so chagrined at all the trouble and publicity.

President: We were very proud of you. It was in the best and highest tradition of the Foreign Service.

Kopp: We have good machinery for these matters. The family all know that way.



P/Barbara Hutchinson / Eugene Kepp

30 Oct 74

Pass

P Have you gotten a vet

H Better as hostage

P How long been there

H Since Dec 72

P How did you happen to get caught  
Pass out

H They wanted a US ship.

P How did it happen.

H They had planned for long while & had apparently  
figured out <sup>they wanted passage through</sup> that was confusion about where  
to go because a police had barred the place  
they <sup>it</sup> wanted to go.

P How many were there

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P What happened to them?

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civilians, well provided.

Kepp The Cubans <sup>Wang, Korman, etc</sup> had refused - we  
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P Your actions in light traditions of F.S. It  
took courage & also a sense of humor

H Couldn't have happened unless better luck  
I had worked for him time.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Rev. on 2/10/04

BY 14 NARA, DATE 5/1/04



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