

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and
Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: April 8, 1975
9:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: How is Eagle Pull coming?

Kissinger: It's down to 50 Americans.

President: How long will they stay?

Kissinger: Until your speech at least. If there's no action by the Congress
by Monday or Tuesday, pull them out.

It is a disgrace. In all justice, I should tell you what Ron Nessen
says -- that you should lead the way out.

President: That is not the way I am. I couldn't do it. If I were to go to
the Hill, we should wipe our hands of it. I can't do it.

I will ask for the \$700 million, economic aid and a deadline of May 15.
We need authority from the Congress to evacuate.



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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By Lt, NARA, Date 1/20/00

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CLASSIFIED BY HENRY A. KISSINGER
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 (b) (1, 3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.

Kissinger: We have two nutty Ambassadors. Dean wants to bug out. Martin wants a new version of the Easter Rebellion. He is supporting Thieu too strongly.

President: Supposing Ike, Kennedy, Johnson or Nixon were President, what would they have done?

Kissinger: Kennedy would have ratted out. Nixon may have bombed -- he was vicious in these things. The Pentagon have continuously put some distance between you and them.

President: How about Johnson?

Kissinger: He wouldn't have bugged out. His advisers would have tried to bug out....

President: Without appearing to do so, Kennedy probably would have bugged out -- with some famous statements which would disguise it.

Kissinger: I must say it would be popular to say we have done enough. give only humanitarian aid, negotiate with North Vietnam to take out those who want to go, and say if the North won't agree, we will do it by force. You could couple it with a statement saying it was a bad defeat, and we need a bigger defense budget because it's a dangerous world, and we need the Turkey money.

President: It goes against my grain.

Kissinger: Mine too. As Secretary of State, I am against it. As Assistant to the President, I am presenting all the options.

President: I don't feel I can do it.

Kissinger: Then say in the speech that you considered it, and you don't know how we can withdraw the aid from those who know the odds more than us and still want to go on fighting.

President: If the Congress want to vote this way, then the efforts of five Presidents, 55,000 dead, and five Congressional efforts are in vain.

Kissinger: We should put the withdrawal option before the NSC -- 10 minutes by Weyand, and 10 minutes by Colby. Then I will present the



withdrawal option, \$300 million in humanitarian aid, and the \$722 million. Then various evacuation options. On these, Martin is a gutsy guy, but he is heading for a debacle. He won't give us any planning. We have got to go in by the end of the week to Thieu and say frankly we may not get the aid and we now must be prepared.

On gifts -- I think this is tawdry. The whole approach is wrong.



Thank Graham & Conrad Gurd - ^{out} picture & letter back to Kado.

P/R Apr 8^(P) 75 ✓

P How is Eagle pull coming?

K Down to 50 US

P How long will they stay

K Till your speech at least. If no action by Cong by then a Tank, pull them out

It is dangerous. In all justice, I should tell you what Ron Wiser says you should lead a way out.

P That is not a way I own, I couldn't do it if I were to go & Hill we should wipe our hands of it. I can't do it.

I wish we had a 7000 mile, even air & a deadline of May. We need authority from Cong to withdraw.

K We have 2 pretty cards - Dean wants to buy out. Martin wants new version of Easter Rebellion. He supporting them too strong.

P Supposing I be, Kennedy, Johnson, ^{or Nixon} Pres. What would they have done.

K Kennedy would have pulled out. Nixon may have bombed - he was vicious in those things. The Pentagon have continuously put some distance bet you & them.

P How about Johnson

K He wouldn't have bought out. His advisers would have tried to buy out.

P W/o appearing to do so, Kennedy probably would have bought out - w/ some previous statement which would disguise it.



R I must say it would be popular, to say we
love every, give only humanitarian aid,
negotiate w/ Kove to take out those who want to go,
if North won't agree we will do it by force.
You could couple it w/ statement saying ~~it~~ it
had defect, need more def budget because dangerous
world, need Turkey money.

P Goes against my grain

R Union too. As Sec State I against it, as Asst
I am pro-ambly all options

P I don't feel I can do it.

R They say you speak for your considered
it, you don't know how we can
w/ draw aid from those who know old
more than us + still want to go on fighting

P If Comy want vote this by way,
then 5 Pms, 55-000, & they efforts
are in vain.

I we should put w/ demand option before NSC

10 min by Weyand, 10 by Colby. Then

I will present w/ demand option, 300

\$722 + ^{Humanitarian aid} then various evacuation options.

In that, Martin is a fantasy guy, but he
is ready for debate. He won't give us planing.

get to go in by end of week to Thier + say
we ~~must have~~ it may not get out & we
must be prepared.

gifts - I think this is tardy. The
all of procedure is wrong.

