Santido file

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Gerald R. 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:

Wednesday, August 6, 1975

9:50 - 10:05 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

The President: What I told the Japanese about Helsinki is already in the paper.

Kissinger: They simply leak everything. They are unbelievably tricky.

The President: The private conversation wasn't much. I think he wanted it mostly for prestige.

<u>Kissinger:</u> You need to reassure them but not too much. We need to give the impression we have more options than they. They would like to divide China with us, taking the Taiwan account and then the Peking account.

The President: Really? [Laughs]

<u>Kissinger:</u> Now the Israelis -- I told Dinitz the eastern line had to move a kilometer or two. He screamed.

The President: What difference does a bit of sand make?

<u>Kissinger:</u> Only the principle -- they say it breaches the principle of demilitarization.

On the American presence, I said there could be absolutely no military personnel. Now we are haggling about civilians. That perception is better.

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The President: I think we could live with that. Will the Egyptians?

<u>Kissinger:</u> Maybe, with civilians. I said Egypt had to have two posts in the North. In the South, I suggested they move the station east, clear out of the zone.

The President: We have made a bit of headway.

Kissinger: If it were anyone but the Israelis, I would say it is 80% complete. I think we will make it. It should take about five days and then I should go to Saudi Arabia and Syria. Our relations with the Saudis are deteriorating rapidly and that is very dangerous.

Church is all excited about the payoff, but that is a way of life.

You know I have been testifying on Chile.

The President: I didn't. But we are in good shape, aren't we? Church is not a strong man, so be tough.

Kissinger: Seidman is the most objective and impressive of your advisors. He wants to get the UN speech to you this week. I am not ready yet and would rather do it next week in Vail.

The President: That is fine. Stay with us. I have to be away giving a speech to the American Legion. I thought I would discuss detente.

<u>Kissinger:</u> You should also discuss SALT and CSCE. I think you should lay it on the line: What in the hell have we given up or ratified at Helsinki? The Democrats want me to assure them I won't speak next year.

The President: That shows one thing -- they are scared. Don't you promise anything. They [your speeches] don't have to be political at all. Just the way you have been doing.





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