

Scowcroft file

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: Thursday, October 9, 1975
9:30 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

[There was initial discussion of the 200-mile sea bill with Max Friedersdorf and John Marsh. It was agreed to move for a January 1, 1977 trigger if it is in no danger of being defeated. Secretary Kissinger gave good defense of the Aldrich position, but all agreed that a delayed trigger would be the best we could do.]

Kissinger: Do you have a press conference tonight?

President: At eight o'clock.

Kissinger: This Moynihan thing. We could live with his comment on Amin, but the OAU linkage is bad and your endorsement doesn't help. Would you do something tonight in your press conference to set it straight?

President: Of course. Would you get me something?

Kissinger: I met with the Los Angeles Times group. They think our foreign policy is in good shape. Even detente -- only the word is bad. If the Democrats attack your foreign policy, they are hitting your strong point,

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BY mla, MARA, DATE 4/2/04

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Scowcroft: On Moynihan, you may not get a question. There is some merit in having Ron clarify it.

President: Get me some words, and I'll talk with Ron.

Kissinger: On the economic summit, the French are still trying to exclude Canada. All the others agree.

President: Can I send a message to Giscard?

Kissinger: That's a good thing to do. I think he'll concede, but even if he doesn't, we will be in good shape with the Canadians. We could tell Schmidt you are doing so and ask his support.

President: Fine. Let's do it. We definitely should have Canada.

[N.B. A hotline message was sent to Giscard -- who turned it down again.]

Kissinger: On the grain deal, the Soviets told us they couldn't buy a 15% discount. It would destroy them with the East Europeans, the Third World and OPEC. The negotiations on this have been a disaster. Butz has talked every day with his guy on an open line. Then....

[The Vice President calls.]

Yesterday he pulled Bell out on the grounds that the grain part was completed.

President: He mentioned that yesterday. I said I didn't think the delegation was coming home.

Kissinger: It puts us in a tough position all around. We can't reopen the grain deal, and there's lots of farmer pressure on us to move on the grain.

We have some options for disguising a discount which we can try on them. But if they reject it, you will have to decide whether to break the linkage. There are problems either way. In principle, I favor being tough. So does Simon. But if it fails, then it will hurt detente and get the farmers on your neck.

President: How is the grain deal?



Kissinger: It is a great grain deal. We could wait until Saturday and see if they will buy our oil offer.

President: How about initialling on Saturday? That would be good politically.

Kissinger: Then we could wait 30 days. If after that we don't have it, I think you have to go ahead on the grain.

President: I agree. Will you take care of it?

Kissinger: On Lebanon, we have nothing to propose. The danger is that if the Syrians go in, the Israelis certainly will.

On Angola, things are not going too badly. We are blackmailing the Portuguese and they are leaving arms behind for Roberto and Savimbi, as well as MPLA. It is better than before.

Scowcroft: Sonnenfeldt wanted to know: If things disintegrate, is the thing Secretary Kissinger discussed with Callaghan still active?

Kissinger: We would have to do something if a civil war eventuated in Portugal. We cannot afford to lose.



Hughes - King
at 2:00

Gay meeting about OAU - for press conf. BYU
Private
Support good relations w/ OAU - (Says to be of course at U.S.)

P/K 90 J 75 9:30 a.m

(Initial discussion of 200 mile sea bill w/ Max & Marsh. It agreed to work for a 1 Jan 77 trigger if it in no danger of being defeated. K gave good defense of Adrian position but all agreed a delayed trigger would be a best we could do).

K You have a press conf tonight?

P at 8 o'clock

K This is a major thing. We could live w/ the comment on Adrian, but the OAU linkage is bad and your endorsement doesn't help. Would you do something tonight in your press conf to set it straight?

P Of course. Would you get me something?

K I met w/ LA Trips group. They think our FP in good shape. E was definite - only ^{word} ~~is~~ is bad. If they ^{do} attack your FP, they hitting your strong point.

S On inauguration, you may not get a question. Same meet in having Ron clarify it

P Got me some words & talk w/ Ron

K One more summit, the Fs are still trying to exclude Canada. All others agree

P Can I send msg to Conrad.

K Good thing to do. I think bill exceeds, but even if he doesn't, we ~~are~~ be in good shape w/ Conclusions. We could tell Schmidt you doing so & ask his support.

P Fine lets do it. We definitely should have Conrad.



K On the grain deal, a source told us they wouldn't buy a 15% discount - it would destroy them w/ E. Euro, 3rd world + Opec. The project on this has been a disaster. Bertie has talked every day w/ his gang on an open line. There (V.P. calls)

Yesterday he pulled Bell out on grounds grain part was unyielded.

P He submitted that yesterday. I said I didn't think a delegation was coming home.

K It puts us in a tough position all around - can't reject grain deal, lets farmers pressure us to move on grain.

We have some options for disguising a discount which we can try on them. But if they reject it you will have to decide whether to break a linkage. There are pros either way. In principle I favor being tough, Sadras Simon. But if it falls thru, it will hurt clients + get farmers on your neck.

P How is a grain deal.

K It ~~is~~ is a great grain deal. We could wait til Saturday + see if they will buy our offer.

P How about initiating on Saturday. That would be good politically.

K Then we could wait 30 days. If after that we don't have it, I think you have to go ahead on a grain.

P Jayce. Will you take care of it.



K-Cell Sickness

→ case of ~~transmission~~ antibodies - early symptoms. Pringles only.

Portuguese civil war only also.

→ Summary: If things deteriorate is - thing K discussed w/relaxation still active.

K On balance, we have nothing to report. The danger is ifc. Systems go in - F. certainly well.

On Angola, things are not going too badly. We blacken wing & Portuguese + they are leaving arms behind for Roberts + S. ... as well as M.P.H.A. Better than before, to

We would have to do something if a civil war erupted in Portugal. We cannot afford to lose.

