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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

PRESIDENT FORD
Crown Prince Hassan of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to
the President for National Security
Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Tuesday, December 9, 1975
12:01 - 12:35 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

[The press came in briefly. There was small talk about the President's trip and Hassan's speaking tour. The press was ushered out.]

Hassan: Have you decided on a trip to the Mideast?

The President: Not yet, but, depending on my political activity, it will probably be in late March or early April. There are three crucial primaries beginning 24 February.

Hassan: The King is hoping to come for a visit here sometime next March.

The President: The extent to which I have to participate in the primaries is still a bit uncertain.

It is good to see you again. We still feel strongly that our two countries should work closely together. We have asked for \$77 million in economic aid for '76. We will probably have trouble with the Congress.

Hassan: Yes, but I have been talking to all the committees.

The President: Good.

Hassan: We have made some progress in becoming credit-worthy. If we can continue, in five years there will be no question about our economic viability.



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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Div. on 3/11/04
BY da NARA DATE 4/11/04

The President: I am sorry about the Hawk affair, but I guess it has worked out OK now.

Hassan: I think it is important that we maintain our relationship in such a manner that no one can come between us.

The President: We do have an election year coming up. But once we get past the election we are determined to move comprehensively. We think the Sinai agreement was a good move and we are determined to move after elections. There will be some tough days in the UN but I hope our Arab friends will be patient and realize that I plan to move speedily and comprehensively once the elections are past. I hope we will not be pushed too hard.

Hassan: There is no danger of that, I think. The big question is how hard the Soviets will push, either in the area or the UN. If the Israelis can start addressing their public opinion to a realistic attitude on the West Bank, but possibly in the coming months the Israelis and Arab radicals can make trouble.

We think the Sinai Agreement was more than called for, but we weren't briefed by Sadat. We know our relationship is one of convenience, but we have to have some way of making our position credible. We aren't tied to anyone's coat-tails but we have to have some means of making our views felt.

The President: How about Lebanon?

Hassan: I don't know what your assets are. I don't think hanging onto the Phalange conservative approach is necessarily the best. We have to keep the situation out of the hands of the radicals, but it's not necessarily true that Syria is radical in this affair.

The President: Would Asad be tempted to take military action?

Hassan: I doubt it very much. I think he is sincerely trying to moderate it. He has met with the Phalange, you know.

The President: Syrian intervention would result in Israeli intervention.

Hassan: Yes. We do need to make progress on the central frontier of the West Bank. Our hands are tied since Rabat. We are uncertain -- don't even know about holding elections, for example, with respect to the West Bank situation.

The President: I hope the debate in January doesn't get out of hand. If we can keep cool for a year, we will then move decisively.



Hassan: The question of the viability of a West Bank state should not be at issue. With some ingenuity it can work. Israel should probably have an election within a year or two, especially if something on the West Bank, so it is important that Israeli public opinion not get into deeper intransigence.

The President: I think it is helpful for you to be speaking around the country.

Hassan: I hope we can take advantage of the next year to explain our case.



✓ P/Pruce Hassan

9 Dec 75

Pers in

Discussion of P trip + Hassan (making Tom)

Present

H Now you decided on a trip to IIIE

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3 crucial promises by 24 Feb.

H The King is hoping to come for a visit sometime

P ~~The extent to which I have to participate in~~ ^{next month} ~~the extent to which I have to participate in~~ ^{still} ~~Good to see you again. We still feel~~ ^{strongly} ~~that our 2 countries should work closely~~ ^{together}

together. We have worked for 27 and I would like 26. Will put back to work of / c long.

H Yes but I have been talking to ~~all~~ ^{all} countries.

P Good.

H We have made some prog in becoming what worthy. If we can continue, in 5 yrs there will be no question about our economic stability.

P I am sorry about the Arab affairs but I guess it has worked out OK.

H ~~It is important that we maintain~~ ^{It is important that we maintain} ~~our relationship in such a manner that we can come~~ ^{between us}

P We do have an election year coming up. But since we get post election news data to make our judgment. We think the Sinai agreement was a good move and we are dat. to move up the election. Will be some tough days in UK but I hope our Arab friends will be patient & wait.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Sec. rev. 3/11/04

BY , NARA, DATE 6/4/04



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P How about Lebanon

H Don't know what your assets are. Don't
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approach is necessarily best. We have to
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radical in this affair.

P Would that be accepted to mid. action

H I doubt it very much. I think the French
trying to restructure it. He has not w/
Khalil, you know

P ~~The~~ Syrian intervention would result



in I - instrument

H Yes, USA do need to make progress on a central question of W. Bank. Some hands are tied in a debate. We are uncertain don't even know about holding metrics, for example, with respect to the W. Bank situation.

P I hope a debate in Jan doesn't get out of hand. If you can keep cool for a year, we will then move decisively.

H Question of viability of a W. Bank state should not be at issue. W/ sound integrity it can work. It is important that I put this opinion not get into deeper intransigence. I should not have an election w/ in eye or 2, esp. if something on W. Bank is

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