

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 11, 1976
4:32 - 5:14 p.m.

PLACE: Oval Office

Kissinger: You were spectacular at the meeting.

President: I thought I didn't sparkle at all.

Kissinger: You were very much a President-in-charge and everyone knows what you are after. After the elections this government needs overhauling -- it is close to being corrupt.

I think probably you should go to III, but II is far better for us.

President: I agree it is.

Kissinger: Don has discovered arms control, Brown is for III, and Ikle.

President: He is the worst. Once this thing is over, he is finished. But what should we do?

Kissinger: I have to say go with III. Brent?

Scowcroft: Regretfully, I agree.

Kissinger: We will draft you a letter to give to Brezhnev by Saturday.

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~



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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, STATE DEPT. CASES/11/04
BY lm, NARA, DATE 4/7/04

President: Okay, but it gravels me that we have to propose a less than optimum option.

Kissinger: We have no discipline left, Mr. President. After November you must assert some control -- you can't right now.

President: I watched Reagan give his speech on TV at noon.

Kissinger: I don't know what you think, but I would take him on.

President: We will take him on. I made a tough statement but it wasn't carried very well. You hit him in your press conference.

Kissinger: Has Scranton accepted?

President: He said he wanted 24 hours.

Kissinger: May I call him, too?

President: Sure.

Kissinger: How about China? We really need to move.

President: They are bringing a list in today.

Kissinger: [Goes over the list.]

President: Ask Hewlitt.

Sisco to Moscow.

Kissinger: I would still like Rogers for Deputy.

President: He is talking about Panama. Can you keep him quiet?

Kissinger: Yes, I will. And I will do nothing for now and give you another crack at him in April.

In Africa, if we can propose some sort of aid program after my trip, we may yet turn this thing around.

In the Middle East, we will pursue the options we discussed but we won't get anywhere. Rabin admitted he wanted either to humiliate Syria or force them to war. But I think we will be driven to do something with the PLO before the year is out.

✓ P/R 11 Feb 76

4:32-5:14 pm

K You were spectacular at the mtg.

P I think I didn't sparkle at all.

K You were very much a President - in charge and everyone knows what you are after.

After all this, this just needs workshopping - it is close to being complete. I just think you should go III, but II is far better for us.

P I agree it is.

K Dan has declined arms control, Brown is for III, and Shle

P He is a wast. Once this thing is over, he is finished. But what should we do?

K I have to say go for III. Brent?

S Respectfully I agree

K We will draft you a letter to give to Burg by Saturday

P OK, but it reminds me that we have to prepare less than optimistic option.

K We have no discipline left, Mr. P. After now you must assert some control - you can't right now.

P I watched Reagan give his speech on TV at noon. →

K I don't know what you think, but I would take him on. &

P We will take him on. I made a tough statement but it wasn't carried very well. You hit him in your press conf.



K Has E. something accepted?

P He said he wanted 24 hrs.

K May I call him too

P Sure.

K How about China. We really need to move

P They bringing a list in today

R (Goes over a list)

P Bob Hewlett

Since to Moscow

K General like still Rogers for Deputy.

P He is talking about Panama. Can you help him first

K Yes, I will. And I will do nothing for crew and give you another crack at him in April.

He agrees, if we can propose some sort of aid program after my trip, we may get them this thing around.

In M.E., we will pursue a option we discussed but we won't get anywhere. Admin admitted he wanted either to buy back Sogid or face them to war. But I think we will be driven to do something with the before a year is out.

