

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET / NODIS / XGDS

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12853 Sec. 3.8

MR 01-100, # 38, 02 etc 10/11/01

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

By del NARA, Date 10/24/01

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
 Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
 General George S. Brown, Chairman,
 Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Fred Ikle, Director, ACDA
 Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
 National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, March 24, 1976
 5:50 - 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: SALT

[Discussion of how to deal with press inquiries. It was decided to acknowledge that we have received an answer from the Soviet Union. We should say they have given us their considerations and this is another step in our continuing discussion.]

The President: Don, why don't you start?

Rumsfeld: I am inclined to a procedural approach.

The President: What do you mean?

Rumsfeld: Asking them what they would propose is no good because they think they have something on the table. We don't have anything new. I would think put off until January; a summit without SALT, where the two of you can just talk. I would just shy away from dusting off a proposal we had made.

The President: George?

CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(3)
 AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to Det.

SECRET / NODIS / XGDS

Brown: I heaved a sigh of relief. I thought out last proposal had some problems, so I tend to the procedural approach.

The President: Fred?

Ikle: I don't think we should do anything in the meantime which would interfere with SALT -- like Minuteman III. Then perhaps we could put some more issues into Geneva -- not the central ones. We could then also undertake to educate them on these ambiguous systems.

The President: Henry?

Kissinger: There are three possibilities -- deferral, stall, or make one final proposal.

[Discusses the three options]

The President: Putting it to Geneva is no good. I think we either suspend and ask for more money, or we look at the January proposals and see if there is anything to work with. Why not have the Verification Panel work at it for two weeks? If we can come up with a new wrinkle, fine. If not, we suspend and go to the Congress for more money.

Rumsfeld: I don't think we necessarily need to ask for more money unless they start to break out.

I would urge you to expand your guidance to include the procedural option and not just review our two proposals and breaking off.

Scowcroft: We should set a deadline and ought to keep working on it.

The President: I don't want to dilly dally around with Geneva or other procedures. I want either a new crack at it or to break it off.

[Much discussion]

I would like it if the Verification Panel would take these points of impasse and see if there is some place we can get some movement. I am just not willing to do nothing for five or six months without sending up a request for more money.



Rumsfeld: I don't think you should go up for more money just because we are delayed for five or six months. To do that, we should show that the Soviet Union has done something -- the fact is they haven't.

[Much discussion]

The President: Let's have the Verification Panel look into the possibilities of modifying our last proposal or the one Henry and Brezhnev discussed.

Rumsfeld: It will certainly leak. We should think about getting out a statement about the Brezhnev response.

Scowcroft: That looks bad. We can have a question planted.

The President: And we could just say they gave us their considerations, and we will study them. This is just another step in the negotiating process.

P/K/R/Brown/T. Lee

24 Mar 76

✓

Discussion of how to deal w/ Press inquiries

A. I remember that we have you used on
answer, they have given us their considerations
& this is another step in our continuing
discussion

P Dan why don't you start

R I am inclined to a procedural approach

P what do you mean

R Asking them what they would propose is in good because
they think they have something on a table. We don't
have anything new. I would think put off till
your summit w/ Salt where I propose
can talk. I would just stay away from discussing
it or proposal we had made.

P George

B. I ~~was~~ heard a sigh of relief. I thought our last
proposal had some pros, so I tend to a procedural
approach.

P Fred

I I don't think we should do anything which
would interfere w/ Salt - like war III. Then
perhaps we could put some more residue into
Commun, not central ones. We could also
contemplate to educate them on these ambiguous
systems.

P K-

K There are 3 possibilities - deferral, stall, or
make one final proposal.

(Discussion of 3 options)

J P (Thinks about putting it to Commun)

I think we either suspend & ask for more
money or we look at a Jan proposal
& see if there is anything to work w/.

DECLASSIFIED

AUTHORITY per MR 01-100, #38

BY WJ NLF, DATE 6/12/04



Why not have a VP work at it for 2 weeks - if we can come up w/ a new workable plan. If not, we suspend & go to a Cong for more money

R I don't think we need. need to ask more money unless they start to break out.

I would urge you to expand your questions to include a procedural option & not just review our proposals & backing off.

S ~~the~~ (Deadline & ought to keep working on it)

P I think though he didn't want to dilly-dally around w/ Congress or other problems. He wanted either a new crack at it or head off.

(Much Dismissed)

P I would like if VP would take these points forward and see if there is some place we can get some movement.

I am just not willing to do nothing for 5-6 months w/o sending my request for more money.

R I don't think you should go up for more money just because we delay for 5-6 mos. Today that we should show that a SC has done something - a fact is they haven't

(Much Dismissed)

P Let's have the VP look into the possibility of modifying our last proposal or the

are R + Bug advised.

R It will certainly leak. We should think about getting out a statement about the Bug response.

S That looks bad. We can have a question planted.

P And we could just say they gave us their considerations, we will study them, This is just another step in a negot. process.

