

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, July 29, 1976
10:00 - 10:39 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.0

DECLASSIFIED #127101
MRCI-101, #50 OSD/EA 3/2/04

dal NARA Date 7/20/04

Kissinger: [Discussion of announcement on Australian beef.]

Rumsfeld: The Sismik [Turkish seismological ship in the Aegean] has the potential for a blowup. If it does, I hope we have a record of trying to negotiate with the parties.

Kissinger: We have written at least ten cables to the parties. I don't know whether we have done it through NATO. If not, we will.

Rumsfeld: The other thing is whether the Sixth Fleet should interpose itself between the two.

Kissinger: What orders would you give? You would be helping either one or the other.

Scowcroft: You have gone on the public record as opposing military action.

Rumsfeld: Maybe I should get U.S. ships out of the area.

Kissinger: But even that would leak and the reasons for it.

The President: Abourezk mentioned to me his idea of a hospital ship going into Beirut. He said he had had no answer.



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EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b) (1, 3)
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[Discussion of why it wouldn't work.]

Scowcroft: I will make sure he gets an answer.

Kissinger: John Norton Moore is making public blasts at you. He says we have ignored the Law of the Sea negotiation.

[Described the Moore/Learson problem, etc.]

[Described the deep seabed issue -- setting aside mining tracts, the problem of depressing commodity prices.]

There are important security interests in the economic zone: scientific research -- as a cover for defense matters like SOS US.

The thing to remember is we can't just bull our way through on this. We have to balance the various interests and the 150 nations.

[Discussion of Learson's lack of competence.]



- 5. Sidman - meet M?
- Abrecht - no answer on Hong Kong ship

P/K/R

29 July 72

R (Discussion of announcement on Australian
buy.)

R The Sismik has potential for a blowup.
If it does, we hope we have a record of trying
to meet w/c parties.

R We have written at least 10 letters to the parties
I don't know whether we have chosen NATO. If
not, we will.

R The other thing is whether a Gth FCT should
interpose itself bet. c & z.

R What else could you give? You would be
helping either one or the other.

S You have to give on public record as opposing
with action.

R Maybe I should get OS strip out of c area.

R But even that would leak & c reasons
therefore.

P Abrecht mentioned to me his idea
of a long ship into Beirut. Said he had
no answer.

(Discussion fairly it wouldn't work)

S I'll make sure he gets an answer.

R John Korten once is making public
blasts at you.

(Described how a Mural/haason part, etc)

(Described deep scaled issues - sitting on
mining tracts, part of depressing commodity
prices.) (at)

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AUTHORITY per ml 01-101, #50; DSA ltr 3/2/04
BY ldh NLF, DATE 7/28/04



There are important security interests, however, scientific research (as case ^{for} ~~from~~ defense matters like SOA US).

The thing to remember is we can't just hold our own chin on this. We have to balance competing interests & C.I.S.O. matters (Discussion of lessons lack of competence)

