MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
Senator James A. McClure (Democrat, Idaho)
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, December 18, 1973
11:45 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

McClure: I know you are busy.

President: I know you vote at noon.

I didn't talk to Sadat, but I did meet everyone in Saudi Arabia.

President: How does Faisal look?

McClure: Not bad. He looks his age.

President: I have known him for 20 years.

McClure: When he took the action on the embargo, he became the leader
of the Arab world. Sadat is okay, but he has different motives. Kuwait
just wants business with everyone. Lebanon is cynical. Jordan has a
different point of view and the difference is between Hussein and the
Crown Prince.

Faisal is being straight with us.
President: It is different from the Israelis. The Jews don't tell us the truth.

McClure: If Israel will accept the principle of withdrawal and it is guaranteed by the U.S., they will begin to restore production with some withdrawal, and they will increase production with the settling of the Palestinian problem. Faisal said there would be no recognition of the Soviet Union. Sadat has played his last card if he can't produce anything. He will be replaced by radicalism.

President: I saw your testimony on the $2.2 billion for Israel. To my sorrow, I learned that the Israeli lobby has gotten the full $2.2 restored. That gives us no leverage. I take a hard line with the Israelis. I stand up to the Soviet Union, but the pro-Israelis won't send troops to keep the Soviet Union out.

How come this $2.2 is moving? Everyone knows how I stand.

Brent, send a cable to Henry. Tell him the President wants to make a statement that will not be misinterpreted as an Israeli right to maintain occupied territory. I want a strong statement out by the end of the day. I want to see it by 4:00 p.m.

McClure: The press will ask me about my trip. What should I say?

President: Say that the key to getting the embargo lifted is progress at the peace conference. The goal is not just 6 October but a procedure that Israel will begin to withdraw from the occupied territories.

McClure: Some of your advice is understating the energy crisis. Simon is okay. Jackson is demagoging this thing and cutting you to ribbons. If there weren't leakage in the embargo, we would be in bad shape.

President: What is the program to counter Jackson? How about the Cabinet officers?

McClure: I haven't seen much.

President: I want a message to them tomorrow to take on Jackson. I want the Cabinet out to kick Jackson in the tail. Jackson is trying to take all the heat off the Jews and put it on the Soviet Union, and claiming that we didn't plan for it.

McClure: The people just ask why we don't go to rationing.
Mr. Kearns was here.
P. Kearns was here.
M. Dammsch, Detroit, asked for Saadat, but everyone
in Detroit asked.
P. He was close friend, too.
M. He told me, he is going.
P. He was his friend.
M. He told me, he was up on something,不知道
something about Saadat and all, but never anything
until today. I want quite a tour
during the visit. Somehow, Saadat stopped it.
Clean up everyone, he was surprised. Saadat
clipped different of men and different of women.
Friend is trying to straighten it.
P. Saadat was different, I don't want to tell any truth.
M. I will accept freedom of information if
promised in US. They will begin to
restrict production of some of the goods
increase until it's (to be) fast.
Fedbil sent me word, it.
Saadat has anything that can't produce anything.
There will be difficulties
by radiation.
P. You gave your testimony at 2:15.
I asked,
M. I learned the only the other day,
that your notice has
reached.
I'm here, and I want to tell it.
I stand up
at 10, but I was told to keep
it secret.
Now come anyone's
on 2 2.
Everyone
knows that 2 2.

Cables R. P. meant to make it clear that
not important and see I might not maintain
occupied borders.
Dear Son,

I hope this letter finds you well and that all is going as planned.

P - I am sorry to hear that the exchange is not going as planned. At least, we are moving forward. It's important to stick to the plan, and I am confident that we will succeed.

M - I agree. The problem is with the energy crisis in Europe. However, we have to proceed with the plan. If we don't, we will face even greater risks.

P - What is your plan to contact Jackson? Have you considered a direct approach?

K - I haven't heard back yet.

P - We need to act swiftly. I propose that we contact Jackson directly and request a meeting to discuss the situation.

Jackson is trying to take action, but we need to act quickly. Let's put it on the table and see what we can do.

M - This plan is not without some risks, but I think it's necessary.

[Signature]