THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS

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.

McClure: I visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait. 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.

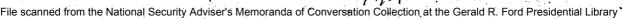
President: I have known him for 20 years.

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.

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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.

<u>President:</u> 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?

<u>President:</u> 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.

<u>President:</u> 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.

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