MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: 
- President Nixon
- Ashraf Ghorbal, Ambassador of Egypt
- Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: 
April 19, 1974
12:10 p.m.

PLACE: 
The Oval Office; Rose Garden
The White House

The President: These are your credentials, Mr. Ambassador?

Ghorbal: These are my credentials, Mr. President, and it is a great honor for my country to present them to you today.

The President: Here is my response, Mr. Ambassador, and I want you to know and I want you to inform President Sadat that this is a day I have looked forward to from the time I have entered this office.

I have felt that it was a great tragedy for both our countries that our relations did not exist, due to events that we are all aware of in the sixties. I realize, too, that we are entering a period that is vitally important in terms of building not just a temporary but a permanent peace in the Middle East, which will mean that your people will move forward in peace rather than to have the plague of war, which has plagued so many of the countries there over and over again.

And I want to say personally that one of the reasons I have welcomed the opportunity to receive your credentials is that in 1963, at a time when we did have relations, which was before the June war, my wife and I visited Egypt with our two daughters, and we shall never forget not only the great historical monuments which go back further than any in the world, but we will never forget the friendship. We look forward some day to coming again.
Ghorbal: Mr. President, I am overwhelmed. I am deeply honored. I am sure I grace everyone in Egypt when I say this is equally a great day for each of us, for we are today ending the estrangement and looking ahead to a rapprochement of cooperation and good friendship.

The people of Egypt remembered very well and remember very well the visit of you, Mr. President, and Mrs. Nixon. Sixty-three has been long back. It is high time we welcome you back, Mr. President, and we look forward to your visiting Egypt very soon. I know that President Sadat and Mrs. Sadat are anxious --- so are the people of Egypt --- to welcome you back.

You have done admirably in bringing about the beginning, and we hope the continuing process of establishing permanent peace in the Middle East. We salute your efforts. We want this cooperation continuously, not only after peace is achieved, but even beyond.

You have done tremendously. We look forward to your doing tremendously and I want to thank you, Mr. President.

The President: Mr. Ambassador, in concluding, you have spoken of what we have done. Let me say that I should put it in the plural, together our two nations have worked out difficult problems in these past months involving, of course, the disengagement.

And it is together, economically and other ways, that we can move forward for not only progress for your country, but for all of your neighbors, which I know President Sadat wants.

Thank you. [The press and photographers left.]

As the General told you, we won't have a substantive meeting today but as we get closer to my trip, we will have you in. We know of the role you played in the reestablishment of our relations. We have exchanged pieces of paper; the paper means nothing without the commitment behind it. A paper can be torn up. My official and personal commitment is to work toward permanent peace in the Middle East. Egypt is a great people, though poor in natural resources. A great people like that must have relations with a country like us.

Ghorbal; I am overwhelmed with honor. I look forward to a substantive meeting whenever you wish.
The President: Right now we have a problem in Lebanon, and a Syrian problem. Let's let them work along for a time.

[The President escorted Ambassador Ghorbal out to the Rose Garden.]

The President: This is the Rose Garden. It is a beautiful time of year with the flowers and rose bushes in bloom. My daughter was married right over here.

Ghorbal: In my country rain is a good omen, so this is an auspicious day.
P. S. Some time between 11 and 12.

1 PM, at 20 WHITE HOUSE.

The President of the United States has informed me that he will be in Europe tomorrow.

I was very pleased to know that you would be coming to our country.

I would be very much interested in talking with you at some length on the studies made by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

1:45.

F. E. W.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

19 April 74

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO; 11/24/84; STATE DEPT; GUIDELINES; NSC/INT 5/18/84
NARA DATE 5/1/84
I am overwhelmed as I recall the joy we feel in having this great country as our home. Our thanks to you and Mrs. Ford for your kindness. We appreciate it.

I trust you and Mrs. Ford enjoyed your stay in the White House. You will always be welcome here.

Your friend,

[Signature]
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

You have spread what we have done. We have worked on these problems together. Together we will know tomorrow

We can tell you now that we will have made a lot of progress. But as we get closer to our trip we will have more to say. I hope you agree.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

We have exchanged views of people. They paper being nothing of what before it.

Paper can't up. My official to personal contact to a few more in ME. I askant people the poor un
natural nonsense. Asking people like. That must have something to lasty with us.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

6 Jan 1913

I am honored to have had the pleasure of being present
at the ceremony where you wish.

P.S. We have begun planning for
the future. Please write along the lines
for the White House.

This is the new facility. Beautiful!

Our family enjoyed spending time
in the building. We have
many happy memories.

Is a good day for
this is an auspicious
day.