

Scowcroft file

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/99, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY ld NARA DATE 3/5/04
State Review 3/8/04

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.



Pres, Gerald
19 April 74

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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for a long time day
I was into office.

Great tragedy that our
relations were interrupted
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Esp. important ~~for~~ for us
to re un ite you in
1974

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/8/04

BY WV NARA DATE 8/5/04



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✓ You have spoken of
what we have done. We
have worked on these
problems together. Together
we will move forward
JLH

P As you told you we won't
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but as we get closer
to my trip we will
have you in.
Let know your role
in est relations



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means nothing w/ of
content behind it

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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you wish.

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day.

