MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs
General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE: Friday, May 31, 1974

PLACE: Oval Office

SUBJECT: Report on Secretary Kissinger's Middle East
Trip and President's Forthcoming Trips to the
Middle East and USSR

Kissinger: On SALT, maybe an agreement in principle is possible.
On MBFR....

President: Which would have enormous domestic impact.

Kissinger: ...a 5% US-Soviet cut is conceivable.

President: We should lay the groundwork with the Soviet Union.

Kissinger: That could give minor problems with the Europeans. The
Soviet Union is waiting to see how CSCE works out. We are holding up
CSCE until you get to Moscow. Maybe you can get something in MBFR for CSCE.

President: We want to show new progress on MBFR to avert unilateral
cuts here.

Kissinger: Within a year we will have massive problems in the Middle
East with the USSR. This summit needs a slightly different flavor.
Cut the camaraderie by 20%, because we may have a confrontation with them within a year.

President: Get up the books for me on the Middle East. Next week my schedule is clear. I am ready for work on SALT.

Kissinger: Our interest in the Middle East is to show things down, not to accelerate it.
Mail east trip

MBFR - Energy domestic impact.

A 5% USsubseteq is commit.

P. US. should map graphite

K. Could join missing part

in Russia. Sun's meeting to talk NSC/E

A coupe. We are getting NSC/E out for

A morning. Don't forget soonest.

C. P. US. NSC/E to show state map

in MBFR. Current available.

K. See us in a year or will.