

Scowcroft R11

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
Amb. Ross Adair, retiring U.S. Ambassador
to Ethiopia
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft

DATE AND TIME: Friday, May 31, 1974
12:35 - 12:45 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

President: It's good to see you.

Adair: I cherish this opportunity. I saw many Congressmen coming out there. In fact I see more of them there than on the Hill. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve in Ethiopia. We found it interesting and Marian and I appreciate it.

President: You enjoyed it?

Adair: Yes. There are similarities between diplomatic and political service. I applaud the Selden appointment.

The problems in Ethiopia started two weeks after I left.

President: You got out just in time!

Adair: This is unpredictable; it just snow-balled. In my call on the Emperor, he asked me to give you his best. He means it -- he is a great friend of you and the United States. He and the Empress deplore what is being done to you.

In two years, I never saw a Yankee Go Home sign. We hope the new government will survive. I hope they give him a chance. There will be a diminution of the authority of the Emperor.

President: That is OK.



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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/9/04
3Y low NARA DATE 8/5/04

President: That is OK.

Adair: They would welcome a visit. I see your calendar is building up.

President: I'd like to, but not this time.

Adair: Will you appoint an Ambassador soon?

President: Soon. Do you have any recommendations? Give them to Brent.

Adair: I'd be happy to. A Congressional person has good background for it. Keating, Selden.

President: I agree.

Adair: Just one more question. Roudebush is going to be number two in the Veterans Administration?

President: You are for Roudebush?

Adair: Yes.

President: He is being considered. It is a big fight between the service groups. We have to have someone who can get support.

Adair: One thing, more needs to be said. Remember that Ross Adair and his wife Marian believe in you and the things you are trying to do.

President: I appreciate it. Just get people to stick in there and ride it out. If every President has to turn over all his files, no President can survive.

Adair: We get a thoughtful response from most people on this.



Pres / Amb Adair

31 May 74

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P And so on

Q I cherish this opportunity. Some Congressman coming out - all more than on hand. Want to thank you for opportunity to meet in E. Chicago. We found it interesting & pleasant & I appreciate it.

P You ~~did~~ enjoyed it?

Q Yes. There are similarities but they're political service. I appreciate Silder's effort. Perhaps in E started 2 who after I left

P Got out just in time

Q This was unpredictable. It just snow-balled. In my call on E. Empire, he asked me to give you his best. He means it - he just put of you & USA. He & E. Empire replace what is being done to you. In 2 years & more so - You've got to have sign. We hope new govt will survive. Hope they give him a chance. Will be continuation of continuity of Empire

P That's ok

Q They would welcome a visit. I see your calendar building up.

P Would visit, but not the time

Q Will you appoint Amb. soon.

P Soon. Do you have any recommendations. Give them to Brent.

Q Would be happy to. Congressional process was good background for it - Kenting, Silder

P Inquire.

Q Just one more question - Radburn is #2

in VA

P You are for Robinson?

A Yes

P ~~It~~ He being considered. It is big fight with business groups. How to have someone who can get support.

Q Am there more words to be said, I think & his wife Marion believe in you & a thing you are trying to do.

P Appreciate it. Just get people to stick in there and ride it out. If my P has to turn over all files no one can survive.

Q We get thoughtful response from most on this

