MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald Ford
Dr. Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence
General Vernon Walters, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: September 26, 1974
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

SUBJECT: Briefing on 40 Committee Activities

President: This meeting is to give me insight into how this works and to help us plan what to do in the future. My views are set: The 40 Committee’s activities are essential. I think what I said was necessary. It wouldn’t have been right for me to say it didn’t happen on my watch.

Anything you think is right, you should recommend to the 40 Committee or me. If it is turned down, that is okay, but don’t you change your approach.

Colby: To have you stand up and support us is reassuring. We get kicked around but your support is good for morale.

First, let me talk about our procedures. The instructions are clear about clearance, and we follow it meticulously. Usually recommendations come from us. Sometimes they come from Dr. Kissinger or an Ambassador, but usually they come from us.
Kissinger: Even when I suggest it, Bill goes and develops the paper. Our paper gives the policy without names, usually. It goes to the 40 Committee and is usually approved by paper vote. If it is unusually sensitive, we have sometimes done it with you outside the Committee.

is the only one of those that is ongoing. The Ambassador usually knows of it. If the Ambassador objects, we will bring up his objections, but he can't overrule it by himself. Where money is involved, we use the reserve; OMB gives the okay and we notify the Committee Chairmen. Sometimes the amounts are small and we brief in general overall terms.

I have decided that any 40 Committee action will be briefed to the oversight committee.

President: How about those not going through the 40 Committee?

Colby: I don't have secrets from them. They are up the wall about

President: Yes, they really are. I think if we establish a good track record with them we will be better off.

Colby: There are a very few of these. One has been

Kissinger: That got going outside the Committee because the President made a commitment so there was no reason to go through the Committee. The decision had already been made.

Director Colby then ran through the current programs, as follows:

-- Vietnam

--
Kissinger: Would it be helpful to do more?

Colby: Only if we did an enormous amount.

President: Where would you do it if you did increase it?

Colby: Lastly we cooperate with other international services. We also give a little support for favorable journalistic pieces.

So much for now. In the future -- what can we do for Italy? Not more money for the Christian Democrats. Portugal? Maybe some support for building up parties. Spain? We need to watch it. Greece?
President: Thank you very much for this briefing.
MEETING WITH DCI WILLIAM E. COLBY

The Oval Office
From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

To brief you fully on the operation of the NSC 40 Committee and on
activities conducted under the general direction of the Director of
Central Intelligence.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Any covert activities conducted under the general
direction of the Director of Central Intelligence are initially
reviewed by the 40 Committee of the National Security Council
and then submitted to you for decision. There are a number of
such activities ongoing. This briefing will familiarize you with
them and with the system for their review and approval.

B. Participants: William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence;
William Nelson, Deputy Director of CIA; Secretary Kissinger;
and Lt. General Brent Scowcroft.

C. Press Plan: Photo by White House photographer only. The fact
of the meeting will be announced but not the subject.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I want to be fully informed on the covert actions which are now
underway.

2. I would also appreciate a brief review of the reconnaissance
program. I understand the reconnaissance schedule also is
reviewed each month by the 40 Committee.
3. I intend to continue the review procedures of the 40 Committee. I want to emphasize the importance I place on a thorough analysis of these activities, balancing potential gain against potential costs and risks.

4. As I said in my press conference of September 17, these activities are conducted in the national interest of the United States. I do not intend to yield to public pressures on this subject, which come from only a small minority. We will continue to do what is right for the country.
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