MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State

and Assistant to the President for

National Security Affairs

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, February 24, 1975

9:20 - 10:12 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

<u>Kissinger:</u> I think we should handle the discrimination bit carefully. If I am asked on Tuesday I will answer briefly so you can do it on Wednesday. I don't think it should be an announcement.

<u>President:</u> Another option is I could make a four or five sentence statement at the outset of my press conference.

<u>Kissinger:</u> The Syrians are making a stink now. They are calling for a Foreign Ministers meeting.

President: Fahmy gave an interview.

<u>Kissinger:</u> The Egyptians are tricky. They are talking about Geneva but I think they are ready for another step.

The Israelis are unbelievable. If they had given ten kilometers to each earlier we would be in great shape. I think the Israelis now begin to see their support is eroding. Even Humphrey tells them they can't get the \$2.5 billion.

I think we need a strong White House focal point for the CIA investigations.

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President: Silberman has recommended one of his people who has done most of his research. We haven't time to educate someone.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We have a massive problem. How can we tell a committee with Harrington -- or Hart -- anything?

President: Or Dellums?

<u>Kissinger:</u> What this does to us around the world is disastrous. Countries don't move rapidly, but eventually Japan will move away. What must China be thinking?

President: Why did Kennedy make that statement on the Mideast?

Kissinger: I like him, but the Kennedy tendencies are liberal, all wrong.

President: I get the impression a staff man handed him a piece of paper.

<u>Kissinger:</u> More and more people are getting wary of putting their chips on the U.S.

Leone is a character, but is a great friend. I don't know what he will say, but I would listen carefully.

We haven't mentioned Option III yet -- you might mention it. As you know, Gromyko drooled over the prospects. Don't show eagerness on MBFR, just say we are offering it.

Schlesinger's comment on Cambodia was great.

President: I agree.

Kissinger: The OAU condemned the Nat Davis appointment. I want to write them a stiff note.

President: We will not back off that appointment.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Train is after the Concorde.

President: I was the strongest proponent of the SST.

[There was a discussion of Alex Butterfield.]



<u>Kissinger:</u> I am seeing Clerides today. We are working on moving the talks to Vienna. The Turks and Cypriots are willing. The Greeks probably will be willing, after the UN debate. The cutoff is making the Greeks more flexible.

Macomber thinks we should stop talking to Brademas et al. and go against them.

We are having an OPEC investment meeting. I think we need a screening mechanism and then be liberal on using it.

President: How will OPEC look at it?

Kissinger: You should see Suharto.



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