MEMORANDUM

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald 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 & TIME: Thursday - February 27, 1975
9:22 - 10:13 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: The Greek mayor of Savannah told me the guy to get to is Gene Rossides.

Kissinger: I have talked to him. He is totally incorrigible. He was a good guy in the Administration but he is beyond hope on this issue.

I am meeting with the Brademas group again today but I think it is hopeless. To settle it, I should get a bizonal proposal from Greece, take it to Turkey and sell it to all the leaders. Brademas and the others weren't even pretending to be for the U.S. now -- they just want some way to prove they were right. Now they are blaming us for not putting enough pressure on Turkey -- but Macomber says only you and I kept Turkey from violent anti-Americanism.

Ethiopia. We have no overwhelming interest in this region, but it will be apparent that anyone (like Somalia) who relies on the Soviet Union is sustained, and anyone who relies on us is dropped when the going gets tough.

President: Why are all the Arabs supporting Eritrea?

Kissinger: Partly because they are Moslems, partly because Libyans are moving and the Saudis have to match the Libyans, because it is across from Saudi Arabia. (There was a general discussion of African boundary lines.)

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If you give arms, there will be a scream, but it will be interesting to see how the blacks react. They are beginning to oppose the Arabs as a result of Ethiopia and there is a historic antagonism between them.

I would favor starting to ship some things. Don't go in with both feet but don't say that $8 million is an upper limit. Just start shipping things.

Asad is going crazy.

President: I see he offered peace to Israel.

Kissinger: If we had a leader in Israel, this could be easy -- five to eight kilometers on the Golan would do it. It is a tragedy that Israel is so benighted and their settlements are so close to the line. Otherwise we could go to Geneva and turn it into another CSCE.

France wants to send out invitations to an initial consumer/producer conference now, because the OPEC meeting is next week. I think we should resist that philosophy. I think we should see what results we get on floor prices in the IEA the end of next week. We can't be driven by the quarterly OPEC meeting.

Assuming that oil drops to $7 with our $3 tariff, oil would have to go below $4 before it makes a difference. That is not realistic, and no other country will accept a tariff. I don't care myself. But as an international agreement we shouldn't tell others how to do it. Fix a floor price and let the countries decide themselves how to do it.

President: Wouldn't a tariff be easily evaded?

Kissinger: What we must avoid is different positions between Enders and Parsky at IEA. If we do that, it lets the Europeans off the hook and they can avoid a decision. France may complain if we put our foot down on the invitation, but we just can't be driven by OPEC meetings.

I told the Saudis we would send Clements and Brown out to talk to them. This may be a bad time to do it.

President: I don't see anything wrong.

Kissinger: I saw Coughlin. Passman wants to compromise at $75. McClosky bought it but I rejected it. I think we are getting to them.
President: I think we should keep on doing what we can. When Phnom Penh falls, it will have a bad effect here.

Kissinger: Chamberlain was the most popular man in Britain in 1938. People don’t thank their leaders for making mistakes, even when it is popular at the time. Cambodia is being cited on the Hill as indicating that we had no interest in Cambodia except to clean out the sanctuaries.

This Congress is a weird group. Secretly, we would get a 90 percent vote on Turkey, but no one has the balls to stand up in public. I told them that they were now organized in such a way that it was impossible to know whom to talk to.
P. Quade, Wmner? Baiai told me a guy to go to
Paris, France.

K. Johnson talked to him. He is totally neutral. He is a
good guy. I mean, I don't think he will do anything to us.

There is no business going on. But this is in
agreement. I should put a legal paper from
France, take it to the UN, tell all the nations. France, it
cannot even participate to be an OS on a fact. Some way it
probably will not work. How they
looking for not putting any pressure on T. But
also United States goes only against itself from Russia
into American.

E. They're. We have no overriding interest in the
African. But it will be argued that your
position. The Spanish who stay in this position and
those who only on us is dropped doesn't going to stay.

P. Only all Arabs are present.

K. Partly because of business partly because they help us very
a lot. Need to create a help, even if it comes from SB.

(And discussion of African foreign aid)

If you give a war, there will be a warner, but it will
probably be the same. Be more or less sort of bringing
to appear Arabs these matters of maybe and then in
British and American.

I would know starting to try such things. Do it in
World. Just that day. I said is as upper limit.

Just don't try things.

Asad is my way.

I will be with Saudi. They will

K. If you have a deadline, this would be very easy
for me. It is a policy that I am helpless.
Their sentiment was else. Otherwise, we could just contact them or talk with them. We should just talk about them. We should see what they want or feel in the end. And just want to have that contact again.

Assuming we do what we have, I think we should have to go below it before it becomes a city. That doesn't matter. We can carry on with it, I think.

I don't care myself, but as we plan now, we'll have to decide on how to get this flint to fire or fire and burn. We can talk about this.

I wouldn't allow it. It doesn't work.

We must avoid to call. Ending/No more names or positions or EEA. If we don't, we have an offer here that can avoid a discussion. For any example, if we put any fruit on a wall, but we just can't be known as EEA city.

I think we can avoid conflict. Clement says that you talk to them. This may be a bad time, but it doesn't matter.

I don't see anything wrong.

I know what you mean. Koosman wrote a story about it. If we don't buy it, but if we do, I don't think we can get a fortune.

I think we should keep on doing what we are. When we break the facts, it will become successful, but...

I think it was and popular some time in the future. As they become more readable, people don't think their display for making mistakes, even when it is popular.
Conformation is...