

MEMORANDUM

Scowcroft file
(orig. in Dinitz file)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ephraim Katzir, President of the State of Israel
Simcha Dinitz, Israeli Ambassador to the U. S.
Gideon Shamron, Director of the President's Office

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

DATE AND TIME: Monday - March 3, 1975
3:02 - 3:45 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

[The press was admitted for photographs. There was a light discussion of Florida and the University of Michigan, where Dr. Katzir had been visiting as a lecturer. The press was then ushered out.]

President: The situation on the campuses is much quieter now. The trouble was in '69 and '70 -- those were destructive days.

Katzir: It proves that if it is only a destructive idea it will pass.

President: But in your country the students work so closely with the government.

Katzir: Yes. Now and then there are some complaints.

President: How many universities are there in Israel?

Katzir: We have seven. The University on Mount Scopus is especially beautiful.

President: Were you born in Israel?

Katzir: No, I came there at the age of 7. I look back with great satisfaction to see what we have accomplished over the years.

CONFIDENTIAL/XGDS



DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 1.6
NSC MEMO, MAR 1975, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/11/04
BY: jdh, NARA, DATE 5/13/04

Dinitz: We have over 50,000 students now in university.

President: Out of a population of 3 million. That is wonderful.

I have a son who is a college senior and is now just beginning to realize he must go out and get a job.

Katzir: My son is a mathematician. I try to tell him it is useful.

Mr. President, I want to thank you in my name, and for Israel, for all the help you have given -- in the social, economic, political and military fields. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. We are much encouraged by your strength and support.

President: Over the years I have always felt that Israel was our real friend and ally. What I am trying to do is strengthen our friendship and to seek that peace which is so much needed by your people and all the other nations in the area. As you know, Secretary Kissinger is leaving Wednesday for the Middle East. Nothing would please me more than for real progress to be made. This is a rare opportunity for another giant step between Israel and Egypt. He goes with my full support and backing to seek that peace which will let your people develop their many talents in peace and security.

Katzir: There is nothing we want more than peace. I feel very close to the United States -- I lived here for over three years. Your people and ours have similar thoughts about democracy and freedom -- and we have a common belief in the future of mankind. Our problem is we have tried so many times to live in peace and have failed. Many are tired of trying, but it is our feeling that we must keep trying--if it is step-by-step, give some here and some there. But we must have security so that if peace does not result we can defend ourselves. I am heartened by your speeches which say that to have peace you must be strong.

President: I believe that deeply -- for you as for us. There are some on the Hill who don't seem to agree, but we have made headway through our strength. We want Israel to be strong also. We hope for success in these negotiations. We think that going to Geneva now would be the worst forum for carrying on delicate negotiations. The PLO would be an issue right at the outset.

Katzir: I have gone through the publications of the PLO. If you are Israeli you can't negotiate with them unless you are suicidal. They don't accept our existence; they are willing to let those Israelis stay who were there before 1918.



President: The alternative to Geneva is Kissinger's step-by-step progress. The other alternative is stalemate with all its frustrations and perhaps military action. I think we have to cut through some of the issues which seem hard, but which must be taken. We want the security and well being of Israel.

Katzir: We do have faith in the United States and in your wishes for us.

Dinitz: There is no one in government who favors Geneva over the step-by-step. Our problem is not getting along with Dr. Kissinger, but with Egypt and Syria.

President: Let me assure you that I would tell any Egyptian or Syrian official it is important for them to move. Movement on both sides is essential.

I am encouraged, but there still is a substantial area of disagreement. I am basically an optimist -- we must try.

Katzir: We agree, but you know how it is in a democracy.

Dinitz: I told Kissinger, who was upset at the Prime Minister's interview, that he answered only under pressure and tried to navigate through with a minimum of problems.

Katzir: I really feel that the Parliament will give its support to another step. It must be the right step, of course.

President: May I ask the Ambassador -- when are we going to get Rosenthal to realize he isn't helping Greece or Israel?

Dinitz: The Vice President called me on this. I went to the Hill to talk to Rosenthal. He has come around, but he is not the master of the situation. He cannot control Brademas and Sarbanes. Now they are looking for some way to get out of it gracefully.

President: We are just looking for help. Your Ambassador has many friends here and he is very influential. We are trying to get out of a difficult situation which is helping no one. We are working with the Senate leadership to get a waiver bill.



Dinitz: I did speak to Case and Humphrey also.

Katzir: What surprises me is that despite the difficulty, people continue to build. Building is going on, industry is expanding, etc. This is very encouraging. We have plans for desalinization which, with your help, shows great promise.

President: Is that like our San Diego project?

Katzir: On a bigger scale. We appreciate your cooperation.

President: Is the soil fertile?

Katzir: We need only water. We also are looking at alternative energy sources.

President: It is encouraging to see scientists in the political arena.

Katzir: Science without morals or a sense of purpose is not right.

President: How long is your term of office?

Katzir: It's five years, with one reelection possible. I have two loves: biochemistry and people. Now I enjoy them both. I go to the labs on weekends sometimes. Have you always been in politics?

President: I've been in politics for 26 years -- after law school I spent four years in the military, then I was elected to Congress, and now I'm here.

Katzir: We are happy you are here. We know of your attitude about Israel, about Jews, about Jews in the Soviet Union. I was very pleased by your statement on discrimination.

President: I thought I should say it. We do not believe in that sort of thing.

Katzir: Yes, I have always thought that moral principles are not apart from politics. Many of our politicians who come from Europe are cynical. That is wrong.



President: Moralism is good politics in the long run.

Please give my regards to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Allon.

Katzir: I shall. Allon came to the airport to say goodbye and asked that I convey his warm wishes to you.

President: Thank you.



✓ P/Katzin/Dinatz / ? Gideon Shanon
4 Mar 75

Press in

3

(Discussion of Florida & U of Mich. Katzin had been visiting lecturer there)
Press out

P Situation on campus is much greater now. 68, 70 - these were disturbance days

K It proves that if it only a destructive idea it would pass.

P But in your country a student would work for nobody w/c just

K Yes. More than that we have some complaints

P How many universities are there

K Well there 2. MIT & U of Mich. is exp. beautiful.

P What year have you in?

K No, I came there at a age of 7. I look back w/ great satisfaction to see what we have accomplished over a years

D We have over 5000 now in minority

P Out of 3 mil. That is wonderful.

I have a son who a senior & now just beg. to realize he must go out & get a job.

K My son is mathematician. I try to tell him it useful.

Want to thank you in my name & feet for all your help, social, econ, pol, mind. Thank you from bottom of my heart. We are much encouraged by your strength & support

P Over years I have felt I was our real friend & ally. What I trying to do is strengthen our possibility and to make that peace which is so much needed by your people and all others in a area.

K Learning w/d. Nothing would please me more than partial prog. to be made. This is a hard oppor. for another great step bet I & E. He goes

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526, SEC. 3.6

NBC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/11/04

BY ll NARA DATE 5/13/04



w/ my full support & backing to seek that peace
which will let your people do their many tasks
in peace & security.

K Nothing we want more than peace. I feel that US-
India have over 3 yrs. ~~ago~~ Your people & ours
have similar thoughts about democracy, freedom - a
common belief in - progress of mankind.

Our job is we have tried so many times to
have in peace & have failed. Many are tired tired
of trying, but it is our feeling that we must keep
trying - ~~to~~ if it is step by step, give some here &
some there. But we must have security so
if peace does not result we can depend on ourselves.
I am heartened by your speeches which say
to have peace you must be strong.

P I believe that deeply - for you as for us. Some
on a hill don't seem to agree, but we have
made backbone their strength. We want it to
be strong also. We ~~hope~~ ^{hope} deeply for ~~strong~~ success
in these negotiations. We think going to Geneva now
would be most ~~favorable~~ for carrying on deliberate
negot. K O would be on issues right at outset.

K I have your three publications of K O. If you and I
you can't negotiate w/ them unless you are
suicidal. They don't accept our existence, stay willing
to let those I stay who were there before 1948.

P The alternative to Geneva is K's step by step progress.
The other alternative is ~~stagnation~~ ^{stagnation} w/ all its ~~frustrations~~
& perhaps ~~will~~ ^{will} action. I think we have to enter
these some of a issues which seem hard, but
must be taken. We want a security & well
being of I.



K We do have friends in US and in your wishes for us.

D We are in part who pass Common over step by step. Our politics not getting along w/K, but w/E & S.

P Let me assure you I would tell any E or S official it important for them to know. Movement on both sides is essential.

I am discouraged, but there still is sub. area of disagreement - I basically an optimist - we must try.

I don't say I wish we wouldn't report in public.

Ka We agreed, but you know how it is in democracy.

D I told K, who upset at PM interview, that he would only make pressure & try to negotiate thru w/a mixture of public.

Ka I really feel that the Parliament will give its support to another step. It must be a right step, of course.

P Why I ask a Arab - where are we going to get Resenthal to realize he isn't helping G or I.

D VP called me on this. I want to Hill to talk ^{to} Kohn. He has come around, but he isn't a master of a side. He can't control Arab, such how they are looking for some way to get out of it gradually.

P We just looking for help. Your Arab has way forward here and he is very influential. We trying to get out of a diff sit which helping us out. We working w/ Senate looking to get a waiver bill.

D I did speak to Case & Humphrey also.

K What surprises me is that despite a diff, people continued to build. structurally Britishing is going on, industry & packing, etc. This is very encouraging.



We have plans for desalinization which, w/ your help, shows great promise.

P Do think like our San Diego proj.?

K On a larger scale. We appreciate your exp.

P Is a soil filter?

K The secondary water. We also looking at all energy sources.

P It encouraging to see scientists in political action

K Science w/ a moral or sense of purpose is not right

P How long your term

K 5 yrs, w/ 1 reelection possible. I have 2 laws: brotherhood & people. Now I enjoy them both. I go to a lab on weekends sometimes. How you always been in politics

P For 26 yrs - after law school, four yrs of military, then Cong & now here

K We happy you here. We know of your attitude about T, Jim, Jim in S.U. We very pleased by your statement on discrimination

P I that I should say it. We'd not believe in that sort of thing

K Yes, I have always that moral principles are not apart from politics. Many of our politicians from Europe are exempt. That wrong.

P Mutation is good politics in a long run.

Please give my regards to Pm & Don Allen

K I shall. Allen came to airport & my grandpa asked that I convey his warm wishes.

