MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald Ford
Ali Hamdi Al Gamma1, Chief Editor of Ahram
Mohsen Mohammad, Chief Editor of Gumburriyya
Moussa Sabri, Chief Editor of Akhbar
Abdel Sitar El Tawil, Chief Editor of Rose El Yossef
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, June 2, 1975
6:45 p.m.

PLACE: Schloss Klessheim
Salzburg, Austria

The President: I am sorry to keep you waiting. I played a little golf this afternoon. How do you want to proceed?

Question: What is your image of President Sadat before your meeting with him and after?

The President: Secretary Kissinger has told me many times after his many meetings how he thought Sadat is a statesman in the real sense of the word -- forceful and sincere in his desire to make a meaningful peace. My first meeting with him gave me the same feeling. He is strong, articulate, and has a deep understanding of the problems of the area. The more I got to know him, the more I was convinced of these qualities. He is the type of man I could establish a great rapport with.

Question: How do you assess the chances for peace, from this meeting?

The President: This was a good chance to assess our policies and where we ought to go. President Sadat has a deep appreciation of all the factors which must be considered in our policy decisions. I don't want to say we made a lot or a little progress, until I have had my further consultations, but the information and views he expressed have certainly been very useful for me in our effort to reach a final reassessment.
Question: What about bilateral relations?

The President: They are very good, and I believe they have been strengthened.

Question: On the questions of economic and financial aid, what did you discuss?

The President: The President gave me an understanding of Egypt's economic problems. I have recommended $250 million this year, plus PL-480. That is committed. I am interested in the status of Egypt's economy because I must recommend a specific foreign aid bill for next year. I want to be helpful but we have nothing specific yet. President Sadat's information was very helpful for me in understanding Egypt's needs.

Question: How do you assess this Israeli move [of thinning-out forces near the Canal]?

The President: It is a useful symbolic action. Some would have urged them to do more but it is a useful symbol to show flexibility.

Question: Until now the United States has given Israel maximum support in peace and war. Should Israel not act as an ally to help you keep your new Arab friends?

The President: We hope as we try to move ahead, to avoid stagnation, that Israel would try to work with all the forces in the area. I am sure that Israel knows that stagnation and stalemate are not in the interest of peace. So they should show the same interest as others in working to reach a formula leading to meaningful progress in the Middle East. I don't want to be specific -- that is for them. All of the countries, I believe, understand the need for progress. A stalemate could ignite a conflict.

Question: With your schedule, will you visit Egypt?

The President: I hope so, but we have a heavy schedule of events coming up -- CSCE, SALT, a visit to China. No date was really set yesterday, but these events are currently on the schedule. I would like to go to Egypt and see it firsthand. I have never been to the Middle East. It would be beneficial to see first hand the problems and the people. Knowing the welcome that President Nixon received, I would of course like a similar experience.
Question: You have had a domestic orientation . . .

The President: I think a President must move both foreign and domestic policies forward. I was very occupied last month with the evacuation from Cambodia and Vietnam, and the Mayaguez. Also this trip is very important. Many domestic issues also are important and both must be dealt with.

Question: You have witnessed a move from estrangement to friendship in U.S.-Egyptian relations. How do you assess it?

The President: Congress welcomes the change, I think. Many Congressmen of both parties have visited Egypt and I think they came back with a favorable reaction to President Sadat and the Egyptian people. We should gain in understanding, and Egypt and the U.S. should broaden the relationship in the future.

Question: There are problems in this relationship. Isn't time moving faster than our plans to solve them?

The President: I am very cognizant of the need for movement -- perhaps it should even be accelerated, but I think we are in a position to keep moving as rapidly as necessary.

Question: In what way?

The President: The U.S. wants to work with Egypt and the other states for a solution of the age-old problem in that area. We recognize that four wars and the embargo can't be repeated -- it is too critical for the world. We do understand the situation -- we don't want the past repeated -- we will work with all the countries there for a solution.

Question: Will we have to wait long for peace?

The President: I hope not.

Question: How long will it be before a decision?

The President: I hate to set a time. Obviously not before I have had talks with Prime Minister Rabin. I am not setting a deadline.
Question: Will the U.S. Senate support you?

The President: If we come up with a good plan, I think the Senate will support me.

Question: What are your plans for 1976?

The President: I will be a candidate and I think a successful one. We have had problems domestically and internationally but I think we are coming up in both areas.

Question: You vetoed the farm bill and some other bills. Does that hurt?

The President: I think it is essential to be firm if you are right.
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I know that being your mother does make life easier in some ways, so if you ever want to

whine about your parents I am at your service;

I know better than most parents to

juggle work and child. So much dependence

on doctors is a burden to me, and yet you can

fully enjoy your time. Fortunately, I am able to

share in some of your experiences. I don't want

myself or your

wildside a lot in a little way, but in a whole

way, my way.

Fighting?

I am an everyday soldier. I am going to

be a general and - what do you reckon

I got to do? If I am part of a
to do, this year I plan to do it too. That is

with. I understand the states of it anyway,
because I must not do it any more.

I mean well for you, but what we do is not always

what we think it is. But the only thing is

that I have to understand.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Q. Tell me, if you have anything in mind, I can try to make suggestions.
A. I don't have anything specific in mind.

Q. You mentioned something about a project that you are interested in.
A. Yes, I am interested in exploring new technologies.

Q. Do you have any specific projects in mind that you would like to work on?
A. I am interested in exploring new technologies.

Q. What kind of support do you need from me?
A. I would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have.

Q. What is your schedule like?
A. I have a flexible schedule, but I work best in the mornings.

Q. Do you have any deadlines coming up?
A. I have a deadline for a project due next week.

Q. What kind of support do you need from me?
A. I would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have.

Q. Have you had any experience with similar projects?
A. No, I am new to this type of work.

Q. Do you have any questions?
Q: I'm not sure, liking faster than spans to solution.

P: I'm sorry, I can't find your answer. Am I asking that you improve your position? How many ways are necessary?

Q: What way?

P: Do me 1 with all the state for all of your Jumbo sizes. Now that it shows I'm not interested in extra. I'm just interested in extra. We decided that the rest - we don't want - don't negotiate, we want all of it.

Q: We don't want for good.

P: Don't want.

Q: I have that large, nonmetal.

P: I have a cut in time. Obviously, not that I have had to cut of nation. Not cutting declines.

Q: Will it still work against you?

P: If you come up with a good plan, I think there will support me.

Q: I loved for 1.

P: Don't be confused, I think you are useful.

Q: We have all jobs cleared until upset.

P: I am very sorry to disturb you.

Q: You intended for another with. However, I think it is relevant to be firm if you are right.