

Ed

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford  
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
 and Assistant to the President for  
 National Security Affairs  
 Tex McCrary  
 John O. Marsh, Counsellor to the President  
 Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
 to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, September 10, 1975  
 5:45 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
 The White House

McCrary: I brought you a report on your wife. She was sensational.

The President: You mean in New York. She had a delightful evening.

[Secretary Kissinger enters.]

Marsh: The President called John Wayne.

The President: He was optimistic and thought he would be out in a couple of days.

McCrary: He is out now, smoking and drinking again.

Let me jump right in -- I have talked to Scowcroft and Jack about this. I have worked with the Greeks all my life. The Greeks have been my handle for my political work with all ethnic groups.

The President: I have a deep affection for the Greek-Americans. My first two jobs were given to me by Greeks. No one helped me more in

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, SEC. 1.5  
NSC 68002, PARAGR. 3 STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, STATE DEPT. 2/10/04  
BY: [signature], NARA, DATE 4/2/04

my campaigns. I belong to AHEPA. But here is the problem. We have never claimed that they have mixed loyalty. What bothers me is that the end result of the embargo has been counterproductive to what they want. There has been no progress made on Cyprus and none will be made so long as there is an embargo. NATO is made weaker by all this. I don't see one thing gained from the point of view of the United States., Greece, or Cyprus. It is a total loss.

McCrary: We haven't gotten out of the end zone, that is for sure.

The President: What we want is how to solve the problem.

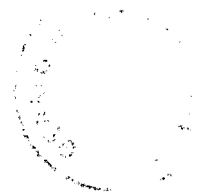
McCrary: As I wrote in my note to Scowcroft, who gave me much time and patience. It is like the Army-Navy game; a change at the half. There hasn't been any sympathy for an embattled Greek Government. In my judgment you haven't moved to the Greek side for the second half. Could you name a U.S. mission, headed by Mike Dunn, with General Van Fleet and some Greek leaders, to sit down with the Greek Government? It would strengthen Karamanlis' hand. There is a feeling in the Greek community that they have won, but what have they got? This mission would defuse the situation.

The President: We have held up the aid bill for the Middle East settlement and the Greek-Turkish situation. I think it is good to get as many pro-aid people on one foreign aid bill as possible. The weaker programs need to be pulled along by the stronger programs.

Kissinger: One difficulty is that the Greek Government has asked me not to put in Greek aid in the same time frame as the embargo vote because it looks like a payoff.

McCrary: When would the aid bill go in?

Kissinger: Maybe by the end of the month. As the President said, we would like to get the whole package in at once. We have a big program for Greece. We are great admirers of Karamanlis. But he needs a rapid settlement on Cyprus so it doesn't got to be a domestic issue. It is not that we are pro-Turkey. Left alone we would have had it solved by now. We had some concessions in January. Greece wouldn't accept them because they were afraid that we would use it to life the embargo. Cyprus is soluble



on acceptable, but not good terms. This has nothing to do with our being pro-Turkish.

The President: I don't even know any Turks, but I have many close Greek friends.

McCrary: My point is a little deeper than cosmetics -- to show the White House flag in Greece.

[Secretary Kissinger leaves.]

The Jewish vote is very fickle. The group which saw you on Monday -- they were awestruck. But the most violent language I have ever heard was this group, each one introduced by a rabbi, each one trying to out do the other in damning Kissinger. Wilks said that whenever a Jew gets too far out front, Jews must worry. The feeling of the Jews about Kissinger is deep, so don't be misled by pledges of support.

The President: Let me make some observations. I didn't know about the meeting you mentioned. But we knew there were strong feelings. But we also felt we were doing the right thing working to get the agreement we did. It wasn't pleasant for me -- and less so for Henry -- to hear the criticism. But we stuck to the course because we thought it was in the United States -- and the Jews' -- best interest. They won't turn around and love us, but when they look at what would have happened had we not gotten the agreement, they will at least understand.

McCrary: Your meeting was very good, but I am just trying to say the Jews are volatile. I would like to bring Wilks into meet you, Kissinger and Scowcroft.

If you all could come up with some sort of mission right away -- they couldn't show results, but they could ascertain the needs, visit hospitals, etc.

The President: Would this be accepted to the Greek Government?

McCrary: I would certainly check all this out.

The President: Let me think it over.

McCrary: Jack can tell me. Then I would get with Brademas, Sarbanes and let them think it is their idea.

P/Mc-brary / Marsh / R

✓ 10 Sept 25

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M I brought you a report on your wife. She  
was treated

P You were in N.Y. She had a delightful  
evening

~~24~~ (K enters)

Marsh The P called John Wayne

P He was optimistic & that he would be out in a couple  
of days

M He is out now, smoking & drinking again.  
Let me jump right in - I have talked to Scott &  
Jack about this. I have worked w/ C Greeks all  
my life. The Greeks have been my handle for  
my political work w/ all ethnic groups.

P I have a deep affection for Greek - Am. They 1st  
2 years were w/ Am. No one helped me more  
in my campaigns. I belong to Akpa. But this is  
a job. We have never claimed mixed loyalty.  
What bothers me is that end result of embargo  
has been counterproductive to what they want.  
There has been no pop walk on by years & more  
will be the so long as is embargo. Both is  
unusable. I don't see one thing gained from point  
of view of US, Greek, or by years. It is a total  
loss.

M ~~you~~ We haven't gotten out of the mud game  
that is for sure.

P What we want is how to solve a job.

M As I write in letter to Sc. who gave me much  
time & patience. Like Army. Wrong game. Change

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/66, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, stated v. e. 3/10/14

BY lab, NARA DATE 6/3/04



etc. half I have heard been my responsibility  
for an embattled Greek Govt. In my judgment  
you should travel to Greek side for a week half.  
Could you name a US mission, headed by Frank  
Lynn, w/ Gen Van Fleet & some Greek leaders; to  
sit down w/ Greek Govt. It would strengthen Kara  
hand. There is a feeling in a Greek civilt that they  
have won but what have they got. This mission  
would defuse a pit.

P We have hold up a aid bill for NIE settlement & a  
G-T set. I think it is good to get as many  
pro-aid proposals / foreign aid bill as possible. The  
weather prog need to be pulled along by a stronger  
prog.

K One diff is that a Greek Govt has asked us not to  
put in G aid in some time frame as embargo  
vote because it looks like a payoff.

M When would a aid bill go in.

K Maybe by the end of a month. ~~We~~ As P said  
we would like to get a whole package in at once.  
We have a long prog for Greece. We are great  
admirers of Kara. But he needs a rapid settlement  
on Cyprus so it doesn't get to be a domestic issue.  
It isn't that we are pro-T, kept alive we would have  
had it solved by now. We had some discussions  
in Jan. Greece wouldn't accept them because they  
opined that we would use it to lift a embargo.  
Cyprus is soluble on any terms, but not good.  
Across I have been writing to do explain how



- Jack Walker - Head of June 16 N.Y. hanger

Jim Turkish

P I don't mean know any Turks, but I have many close Greek friends.

M My point is at little deeper than cosmetics - to show a little flag in Greece.

(K leaves)

The Jewish vote is very picky. The group which saw you on Tuesday - they were arrested. But - most violent language I have ever heard was this group, each one introduced by a subtitle, each one trying to outdo another in denouncing K. Walker said whenever a Jew gets too far out front, Jews must worry. The feeling of Jews about K is deep, so don't be misled by pledges of support.

P But we made some observations. I didn't know about the one you mentioned. But we knew there were strong feelings. But we also felt we were doing a right thing working to get a agreement we did. It wasn't pleasant for me - & less so for K - to have a criticism. But we struck a course because we felt it was in a US - & a Jew - best interest. ~~What~~ They won't turn around & love us, but when they look at what would have happened had we not gotten a agreement, they will at least understand.

M Your note was very good, but I just trying to say the Jews are volatile. I would like to bring Walker into meet you, K, & Scar.

If you all could come up w/ some sort of mission right away - they couldn't show results - but they



could ascertain needs, visit hospitals, etc.

P Would this be acceptable to a Govt

M I would certainly check all this out

P Let me think it over

M Jack can tell me. Then I would get w/ Bradman/Sachsman + let them think it over  
ideas

