MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. 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: Thursday, October 16, 1975
9:33 - 10:44 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

President: I thought I would fill Henry in on the talk with Schlesinger.

Kissinger: I haven't had a chance to talk to Brent about it.

President: He asked for the meeting, but I don't know if we got to his subjects. We started on personnel. It looks like we will lose Ellsworth. I offered a couple of jobs to him but he wanted to stay where he was, but with a higher title. I said I couldn't see making two deputies in Defense. He asked about an undersecretary rank. I said send me the papers.

Kissinger: I have no problem with that, but DOD should get out of foreign policy.

President: Then I hit him on the Détente article by Dr. Winifred Joshua a classified analytical paper, criticizing dente, which was I said it was amateurish and shouldn't have been released. He agreed. Then I said he hadn't done his work on the Hill on the Defense budget. He said no organic harm had been done, but I said it was not perceived that way. Then Brent came in and we discussed the budget cut I wanted him to take. Then Brent says he went back and talked to him for some time.

Scowcroft: [Described Schlesinger conversation with me]

Kissinger: There is something every day. Today it is Les Gelb. Vladivostok was a real achievement. They are after me but it is going to get to you.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4.

CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER
President: That is correct.

Kissinger: When we were at Vladivostok they didn't have us push on Backfire. On missiles, they just asked us to protect the SRAM, not cruise missiles. [See exchange of messages from Vladivostok, Tab A]. Schlesinger is making it tough for you with the Reagan bunch, but if you move to the right, the liberals will kill you in the election for sabotaging detente.

President: Are we working up anything new on our SALT position?

Kissinger: I don't think we should until the Soviets respond to us.

President: What does Haig think about cruise missiles?

Kissinger: He is not all that enamored with them. He thinks Schlesinger's objective is to get all the tactical nuclear weapons out of Europe. Except on SALT, Schlesinger is on the very liberal side.

If we don't cap the cruise missiles, the Democrats will kill you with the claim there is a gap you can drive a truck through.

In Canada, he is saying we are falling behind in Defense with the Soviets. That is okay with a Congressional committee but not with foreigners. He also told them about using cruise missiles in response to an attack in Northern Norway. That is dangerous -- indicating we would not respond to an attack with the full force of NATO.

The Democrats will have a field day if you support his SALT position and there will be no agreement.

President: I want a SALT agreement. I want to let my conversation with Jim sink in and then talk to him next week.

Kissinger: I think you must tell him that what should be coming from the Pentagon is simply support for your position. I earlier did some talking points to that end, but you don't really need them.

President: Give them to me. I want to pursue my talk with him in a more general sense.

Kissinger: Haig says he [Schlesinger] wants to be President.

[There is discussion of whether or not Schlesinger will resign.]
President: Give me the talking points.

Kissinger: On your China trip, your advance people have a schedule which would kill you. And you can't stop in Japan without meeting with them.

President: Even at the air base?

Kissinger: That would raise extraterritoriality issues. [Discussion of different schedules, advance office versus Department. Anchorage at 9:00 a.m. Sunday; arrive in Peking 3:00 p.m. Monday p.m.]

On the return, they wanted you for eight days. You can cut it to five days, but I think you shouldn't leave before Saturday, or Friday night.

President: All we want to do in Hawaii is go to the Arizona and lay a wreath.

Kissinger: I don't know how the Japanese will feel about that. I will check.

President: I think we should leave Saturday morning.

Kissinger: On Sadat, I understand they want you down to Jacksonville and back on Sunday.

President: Is that manageable?

Kissinger: Yes. How about a dinner event by Askew?

President: He is a good guy.

Kissinger: On the Economic Summit, your people don't think you should leave from a fund raiser. I don't understand that.

President: Neither do I. I will leave from Atlanta.

Kissinger: On Turkey, we have new problems. Ecevit says he will support Demirel on Cyprus if they didn't become foolish. But they are being resistant on the bases. I have asked Brent to have Haig call Sancar. There is a Turkish NSC meeting on the 20th. Demirel is being very cagey.

We apparently won a victory in Angola on the road between Caxito and Luanda.
We are constantly being approached by the North Koreans at the UN. I personally favor talking to them one time and telling them we would talk if the South Koreans are present and would gauge their attitude in the UN debate as to the prospects.

President: I think the story on your response to the Pike subpoena played well.

Kissinger: UNEF could be a problem. Egypt says that Israel has no right to write to the UN on UNEF because it's on Egyptian sovereign territory. That is not a problem unless the Soviets get in.

Lebanon is another problem. There is talk of an inter-Arab force going in to pacify the country. I doubt the Israelis will stand still for it.

President: How can we justify Arab intervention?

Kissinger: Lebanon would ask for it. We better ask Israel what their intentions are. We have told them not to initiate action, but not about acting in response.

President: What would they do?

Kissinger: They would clean out the guerrilla bases and probably stay in southern Lebanon.

President: Could we do in '75 what Ike did in '58?

Kissinger: No way. The political situation is different and we then had Turkey and Wheelus. We could physically do it, but even Sadat couldn't accept it.

President: Then we have to keep anyone from intervening.

Kissinger: That's right. Lebanon is quiet for the moment, but it could blow up.
P. I try to stand and yell in one talk a little.  
K. I don't have a chance to talk to them about it. 

P. He took the test last and didn't know if we got a big 
good. I didn't know personal, because Dr. could 
and go back. It left a couple of kids in win but 
the road is more 1 year he was in hall of boys with. 

I told him I couldn't see doing a 2 or 3 a day. He asked about an unloading crowd. I 
spied someone in the corner. 

K. I don’t get all that 50000. I don’t get all that out. 

P. Then I told him our distance article could 
it was concerning whether had been school. He 
agreed. Then I said he hadn't done in work 
or tried on a quiet budget, he said no 
organic know does cut I said not permanent 
way. Then I didn't come in our discussion 
about cut I wanted him to take. And I don't 
think he would back. Could we him for sometime. 

S. (Deferred to me 6:30 AM w/me) 

P. There is something, every day today it is his 
well. Black was a real achievement. They are 
often one beat at trying to get him. 

K. They didn't have no pens in Badger. On 
whelk put asked me to put in a Shaker's root 
Mr. Soder is making it tough for you of 
Ranger, we're not. If you ever the right 
elements will help you win electric for strategy
Dear [Name],

I've been working on a new project on a new computer. I wanted to ask you a few questions:

1. What do you think of the new computer?
2. How is the software setup going so far?
3. Have you made any significant progress on the project?

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
K: Keep town b. Nick to P. Discussion of situation w/ not telling & meagre.

P: Send me a telling point.

K: On your China trip, your advance people have a schedule which will tell you, you and the man in Japan of city of them.

P: E-mail me in brief.

K: That would save understanding errors.

Discussion of city schedules A trip to

Dept Advisory at 8:00 am Sunday am in

Eating 8:00 pm Monday pm

Our dinner, they would come for 8 day. You can cut it for 3 day, but I think you shouldn't have

before Saturday, so I think mighty

P: All want to do in Hawaii, go to a movie or

in a museum.

K: Don't have much data will pick up chat. I will

known.

P: Think we should have for dinner.

K: On Sunday, I understand they want you down

on Monday.

P: What removed?

K: Yes, there about a dinner went by plane.

I am glad you

P: On a train, some people don't think

you should leave from a presentation. I don't

understand that.

P: With is 3rd. Should leave from Atlanta.

K: On Thursday, we have such this. Can't say be...
with support, we'll go on support. If they think it
is a tool for us, I think they will try to
make it work for us. If we're not doing anything,
we can't make it work. They'll do it on their own.

We're constantly approached by Naciones
Unidas. I personally face talking alone or telling
them we're not going to talk if we know people will
want to change their attitudes in a UN debate
as a project.

P: I don't think the Russian peacekeepers

will help. The

K: UNEF could be a plus. I know I have no

problem with UNEF. The only problem is, we

should get in. We should get in with

Russia. They're in there. We should get in there

and share the same entity. I think I can stand with

for it.

P: How can we justify direct intervention?

K: We'd have to ask the US. We're talking about

what their intentions are. We have to know

what they're going to do. We can't just sit there and

not do anything.

P: What would they do?

K: They would send in a guerrilla force, a

Russian special operations.

P: Would we do it or what the US did in K

K: We would do it. If we are China and Turkey

and everybody. We would physically do it and then
Saul didn't want to accept it.

I thought there was enough for everyone.

That's right. Someone pointed for movement and it could happen.