MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:
- President Ford
- Secretary Henry A. Kissinger
- Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President

DATE AND TIME:
Wednesday, November 19, 1975
9:15 a.m.

PLACE:
The Oval Office

Kissinger: Our relations with Japan are now in a class by themselves -- unbelievably good.

The President: Here is a Japanese magazine of the Emperor's visit. [He showed it to Secretary Kissinger.]

Kissinger: In the records, the major achievement will be the tightening of the bonds of the West.

David Brinkley said you are in good shape. The shakeup didn't hurt you at all. Reston agrees. You will come out fine in New York.

I'm having Murphy tell Assad he has to hold out til '77. If he wants a negotiation on the Golan, we will do so. If he wants to work with the PLO, we can't do it before 1977, but we can send a private person to talk to them. If they want a negotiation in conjunction with Jordan, though, we would support it. I haven't told Israel that, though I think they will be upset.

I don't like the boycott statement. Can't we lower the profile? The Jews are going all-out to get us embroiled with the Arabs. We also have a problem on the arms. Our studies show they don't need any additional equipment.

Scowcroft: This will make it difficult in handling the issue.

The President: Can't we let the Congress know what the situation is?
Scowcroft: It will certainly leak.

Kissinger: But I have to testify in support of it, and you recommended it.

The President: Yes.

Kissinger: On the China trip: We are planning only one substantive meeting per day. There isn't that much to say.

The President: I want to be well prepared.

Kissinger: Brent, tell Solomon that the meeting with Mao should not be on the first day. Tell him to suggest it subtlyly with the Chinese.

President: Could you get the records of my meeting with Chou En-lai in 1972, with Hale Boggs?

Scowcroft: We'll get it.

Kissinger: We will have by tomorrow a book of all with Mao conversations and selected other ones.

Tell Solomon to try not to have Mao meeting on the 1st day. I would not banter with him. He is very subtle and says nothing without a purpose.

The President: Should I, since they are pro-Schlesinger, talk about Rumsfeld's testimony?

Kissinger: No, I don't think we should be defensive about it. I would say there is no Kissinger policy, no Schlesinger policy -- only a Ford policy.

The President: I agree.

Kissinger: I would be very tough on that. You are totally in charge.

The President: You are right.

Kissinger: We need an NSC meeting on the DPQ issue. On nuclear weapons in Europe. Schlesinger wanted to take them out. This should be in the NSC system.
Only heavy bombers can have cruise missiles over 600 kilometers in range. We could agree to counting as MIRV any bomber with ALCMs over 600 kilometers. Also SLCM's. Then we reduce the aggregates to 2300 -- that's equal to 100 Backfire. Then get a letter saying they will only deploy 1200 MIRVs. They plan to build 400 Backfire, so this would get them 300 free but they couldn't put longrange cruise missiles on it.

The President: Going from 2400 to 2300 is good from a perception point of view.

Kissinger: We could probably get them to buy it if we let the Backfire go.

You are meeting Wilson today on the 200-mile limit. Gravel has done a really good paper on it. I know you have a tough political problem.

The President: It's a tough political problem either way. I will listen today. I would rather have no bill down here. Where is it?

Scowcroft: The SFRC reportedly negatively 7 - 6. It is going to Senate Armed Services, which will probably report negatively.

Kissinger: Church's assassination report will be approved tomorrow. It will be a disaster.

The President: Can't we get our friends to set it straight?

Scowcroft: Only Hyland has seen it thus far.

Kissinger: The trend is against us in Angola. I think we should appeal for a cease-fire to the OA U and the Soviet Union. Colby is blackmailing us.
Dear [Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to reach out to you regarding a recent development that has come to my attention. I believe it is important that we address this situation in a timely manner.

As you may know, [specific context or background information]. I believe that [give reason or concern].

I would like to discuss this matter with you further, and I am available at your convenience to do so. If you would prefer to discuss this topic in person or over the phone, please let me know at your earliest convenience. I believe that it is crucial that we handle this matter in an appropriate and timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

[Your Name]
I can only guess on where we should be going.

P: Some kind of pre-Schles, talk about

K: I don't think we should be doing

P: I would say there is no K policy, no

K: I would be very tough on that; totally vi

P: On one night

K: The work the two CPs, I know... The whole in

P: NSC stuff

K: Sor

P: We could agree to anything as MIRV any

K: We could have a number of FCMs over 600 th... Also

P: SLCMs. Then decide how you would

K: 2,000 — that agreed to 100 backfire. Then

P: get a letter saying they will only deploy

K: 1,200 MIRVs. They plan to build 400 backfi

P: to this would get them to say, but they

K: would not put 400 in.

P: Going from 2,000 to 1,200 is great from

K: perception point of view.

P: We could probably get them to say that

K: we hit a backfire go.

P: You are meeting with the Aides on 200 mile

K: and has shown really good progress on it. I

P: think you wanna talk to political part.
I think the best way to do it will be to do it tomorrow. I would rather have we do it this week. What do you think?

5. SEC is going to request negatively. It is going to SEC, which will refuse negatively.

2. The examination report will be approved tomorrow. It will be a success.

P. Can't we get someone new to do it straight?

S. Only if one and I have done it before.

2. There is negative against us in the best, & think we should appeal for time. & then for SEC.olly is steadfast in me.