

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., CINCEUR/SACEUR
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, January 28, 1976
3:02 - 3:30 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: How are we doing in NATO?

Haig: We're doing fine, except for the concern over Congress. They all sat on their hands when we were in Vietnam because they didn't want us to focus on a peripheral area. But this intelligence business is having a devastating effect.

President: It should. Although they are not being too tough -- take Angola.

Haig: That is right. They are deeply disturbed about the anarchy in Congress.

President: We are, too. We will make a maximum effort to prevent a repetition of '75 -- especially in the defense budget.

Haig: They are delighted with the improvement of the consultative process. They have kept their defense budgets fairly high, even in the recession, except for Italy and Great Britain. The Norwegians, the Danes are fine. The Germans are great. Giscard is getting stronger and is growing as a constructive force.

President: What is this about the brigade in North Germany?



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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, *State Review 3/11/04*
BY lwk, NARA, DATE 6/7/04

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EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 (b) (1, 3)
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Haig: We have an egregious shortage of forces in the North German plains. [Described the military situation].

The Germans are enthusiastic, but it costs money, and that has become enmeshed in the offset issue. He won't agree to pay for it until he knows what we will ask for for offset.

Leber has been disenfranchised by Schmidt on this issue because of our balance of payments and the fact that Nunn in effect put a pistol to his head.

President: How about the Greek-Turkey situation?

Haig: It is very worrisome. I spent time with Sancar at Christmas. I told him they had to move to get us back into the bases, or Congress would cut us off. The talks start February 17. But there are internal problems in Turkey.

President: If we don't get some movement by March 1, we will be in trouble because the legislation will be on the floor.

Haig: The military could step in in Turkey, and that would give us Hill problems.

President: How about MBFR? NATO finally bought our package.

Haig: Yes. They are very reluctant. And it didn't help to have DOD saying we would remove weapons in excess of 1000 in MBFR.

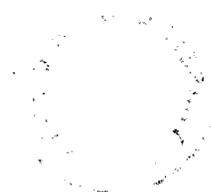
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President: How have developments in Spain been received?

Haig: They are delighted. But we shouldn't be too impatient about the NATO thing and risk getting a kick in the ass from moving too fast.

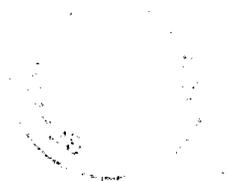
President: What about Portugal?

Haig: It is a very radical situation, but it is improving. We are trying to reorient the army away from colonialism and toward a NATO contribution.



President: What is the condition of the Army?

Haig: It is in shambles. The Italian situation is worrisome. Only Henry has been talking of the dangers of the historic compromise. It is a good thing, although Schmidt is okay.



P/Haig ✓

28 Jan 76

3:02 - 3:30 pm

P How are we doing in NATO

H Fine except for ~~the~~ concern over Congo. They sat on their hands on UK because they wanted us not to pass on a peripheral area. But this milit. business is being a diversion effort.

P It should. Altho they are not being too tough - ~~late~~ Angola.

H That is right. They are deeply obstructed about the Congo anomaly.

P We are too, we will make a max effort to prevent repetition of 75 - esp in def budget.

H They are delighted w/ a requirement of a consultative process. They have kept their def budgets fairly high, ~~plus~~ even in recession, except for Italy & GB. The Europeans, some are fine, Germans are great. General getting stronger and is proving a constructive force.

P What is this about a budget in N. Germany

H We have an egregious shortage of forces in N. German plains. (Described milit. situation).

The Germans are enthusiastic but it costs money & that has become enmeshed in effort. He won't agree to pay for it until he knows what we will ask for effort.

Leber has been disempowered by Schmidt on this issue because of P and the fact that human effort put a pistol in his hand.

P How about A-T sit

H Very aware. I spent time w/ Sanson at Reno. I told him they had to move to get us back into a base as they would cut us off.



- Chrove -

These talks start Feb 17, but there are internal problems in Turkey.

P If we don't get movement by March 1, we will be in trouble since legs will be on the floor.

H The secretary could step in in T + that would give us Hill jobs.

P How about MBER? NATO finally but some package

H Yes. They are very reluctant. And it didn't help to have DOD saying we would remove caps in excess of a 10% in MBER.

P Have been deployments in Spain been used?

H They're delighted. But we shouldn't be too impatient about NATO trying to risk a hitch in a — from moving too fast.

P Portugal?

H Very relaxed air, but it is improving. We are trying to reorient a army away from eastern & toward NATO contribution.

P what is Army contribution

H a shambles.

The Italian sit is unresolvable. Only R has been talking of a drop of a historic compromise. It's a goal being the Schmitt R.

