

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, March 10, 1976
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Private Study

Kissinger: Maybe Brent should call Dinitz. We expect an answer by Friday. I told him you would quote comparative figures, using our intelligence estimates if necessary.

President: I read your speech. It was too long for me. But I don't think it is too tough. Bob [Hartmann] has given me a draft for Chicago which is 75% Defense which is designed to show I am not a Johnny-come-lately to the idea we need strong defenses.

[More discussion about the speech.]

Kissinger: I have some thoughts on personnel. First, I think I ought to pick someone from inside so someone doesn't have to learn the job for these few months. The best ones substantively would be Rogers, and Habib. If that is a problem, the next best would be Robinson. Or we could go with Maw. Or David Bruce.

President: What does the number two man do?

Kissinger: He administers the Department, sees Ambassadors, focuses on the areas the Secretary doesn't.

President: What does number three do?

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Kissinger: He generally coordinates the substance of the Bureaus. Habib would be good there -- or Rogers, except he isn't a Foreign Service Officer.

President: My only problem with Rogers is political. Acting for you over here I think would create a tension which wouldn't be there with Robinson. I am speaking very cordially.

Kissinger: It is a shame. Rogers would be the best.

President: Here is one to think about -- Zarb thinks his job is about done.

Kissinger: He doesn't know enough to be Deputy.

President: I agree.

Kissinger: I could think about Assistant for Latin America.

President: How about Robinson, and Rogers to replace him?

Kissinger: I don't know what your thinking about the Middle East trip is.

President: I thought we were putting it off.

Kissinger: Yes, I think it's not a good idea before UNDOF. Maybe not before the election.

President: What about the Sheehan article?

Kissinger: I said if the material had been dumped, it was totally unauthorized.

P/K

10 Mar 76 ✓

K Maybe Brent should call Dinty. We expect an answer by Friday. That you will give cooperation figures, with estimates if necessary.
P I read your speech. It was too long for me but I don't think it is too tough. Bob has given me a draft which is 75% defense which is designed to show I am not jobbing our ally. (More discussion about a speech)

K On personnel, first I think I ought to pick someone from inside to someone doesn't have to learn a job for these few months. The best substantively would be Rogers, Habib. If that is a pro, what best would be Robinson. Or we could go w/ minor. Or David Burch.

P What does #2 do?

K ~~the~~ Administrator - Dept, sees Ambassadors, focuses on a areas - Secy doesn't.

P What does #3 do

K He generally coordinates a substance of a business. Habib would be good there - ~~as~~ Rogers, except he isn't FSO.

P My only job w/ Rogers is political. A trip for you over here I think would create a tension which wouldn't be there w/ Robinson. I am speaking very candidly.

K It is a shame. Rogers would be a best.

P Here is one to think about - Zerk thinks his job is about done.

K He doesn't know enough to be deputy.

P Zayee

K I could think about best for Latin America.

P How about Robinson & Rogers to replacement.



K I don't know what you thinking about it is they is

P I don't know what you putting it off.

K Yes, I think not good before used it. Maybe
not before election.

P What about Spillane article

K I don't if ^{it} ~~set~~ level have changed

Remember what K told you

