

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.8

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MR 98-38 #2 NSC Ltr. 6/24/99

By KSH NARA, Date 4/21/00

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME: Friday, March 19, 1976
9:22 - 10:25 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office



Kissinger: On the C-130's, Sadat wants to go the FMS route, Max Fisher says the Jewish Community won't fight it on the Hill if we will agree not to do anything else this year. If we can find some way to do it without humiliating Sadat.....

The President: That is fine.

Kissinger: You came out well by being firm with them. I had Begin in yesterday. I really gave him hell. I thought it would actually help the government to beat up on him.

And I think you should meet with the Klutznick group. You don't have to ask for their support, but just explain your policy.

The President: Let's do it.

Kissinger: On the Nixon report [from China] I didn't find anything new in it. I had hoped he would write down each word so we could get any nuances.

The President: What are we going to do with it?

Scowcroft: We are sending it back. We have gotten some press queries already and we need to get it out of here so we can respond to questions.

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CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
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AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.

Kissinger: We could say it was a very interesting and useful report.

I am worried about the Soviet approach. If we piss on everything, we will lost the whole policy. If they think you are no better than anyone else they can do a lot to harrass you. I think we should look for ways to reimpose our commitment to detente. We must show them Angola was unacceptable, but in retrospect I think the public postponement of the joint commissions was a mistake. Don's approach yesterday was nonsense.

The President: It didn't make sense.

Kissinger: I am assuming that even if you don't want an agreement you don't want to break off the talks.

The President: I would prefer an agreement, because I think that is in the national interest.

Kissinger: One way to go would be to improve our last proposal, or pick out some of the more attractive aspects of the Soviet January proposal. Or to put together the best proposal we can, based on our old options, with reductions, but make it a final proposal not subject to negotiation.

The President: I like that approach. Especially I think reductions are very attractive. What is our timing?

Kissinger: I think we should do it in a leisurely way. After the meeting next Wednesday, you could say you want to think about it some more, until after the Wisconsin primary maybe. Then get them in and give them instructions to improve the last offer and also to look at Option II again. I don't think you can let the process run free like the last time. I think you are in better shape now because in January the chiefs were positioning themselves against a Jackson victory or against the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The President: Is there an advantage in offering alternates -- like extending the dates on the latest one and give them a modification on our earlier one?

Kissinger: I wouldn't give them two. On the reduction proposal I would do it as a more or less final offer. If we use the latest one, I would just change the date to 1983.



The President: Brent, will you write down these options over the weekend so I can study them.

Kissinger: But I wouldn't be that specific next Wednesday. I wouldn't go further than to say you want to work for an agreement but you want to think more about how to go about it.

[There is some discussion of speeches and the political situation, and about Connally and the Secretary's Dallas speech.]



out Carter speech.

P/K

19 March



K Ours 130's, Sadat wants a FMS. Fisher says
James won't put it on Hill if we will agree
with do anything else this year. If we can find
some way to do it w/o humiliating Sadat.

P That is fine

K You cannot say well - by being firm w/
them. I had Begin in yesterday. I really
gave him hell. I thought it would ~~be~~ actually
help a great to beat up on him.
And I think you should meet w/c Khrushchev
group. You don't have to ask for their support,
but just explain your policy

P Let's do it.

K On the Nixon report, I didn't find anything new
in it. I had hoped he would write down each
word so we could get any nuances.

P What are we going to do w/it.

S Sending it back. We have gotten some press
generis already and we need to get it out of here so
we can respond to questions

K We could say ^{it was} an interesting and useful report

K I'm worried about a Sov approach. If we piss
on every thing, we will lose a whole policy. If they
think you are no better than any other one else
they can do a lot to ~~hurt~~ harass you. I think
we should look for way to strip our contract
to detente. We must show them Chynla was
unacceptable but in retrospect a ~~poor~~ public
postponement of a ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~was~~ was a mistake.
Doris approach ^{is} ~~is~~ nonsense.

P It didn't make sense

K I am ~~am~~ ^{am} ~~convinced~~ ^{convinced} that even if you don't want

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By KBA/NARA, Date 4/21/00



an agreement you don't want to back off a
ticks

P I would prefer an agreement, because I think
that is in - with interest.

K One way would be to improve our last
proposal, or pick out some of more attractive
aspects of a few proposals. Or to put together
a best proposal we can, based on one ~~year~~ old
options, w/ reductions but ^{not suggest as final proposal}

P I like that approach, especially I think reductions
are very attractive. What is our timing.

K I think we should do it less quickly. After a meeting
next Wed, you could say you want to think
about it some more, then wait a week more
til after - We're pricing maybe. Then get
them in & give instructions to improve a
best offer & also to look at Option II again.

I don't think you can let a process run full
like a last time. I think you in winter
should avoid course in Jan & Chris when
positioning themselves against a job here
until a chance of A.S. Crute.

P Is there an advantage in giving alternatives
like extending a date on a letter and give them
a word on our letterhead.

K I would not give them 2. One - a letter proposal
I would do it as a more a less final offer.
If we use a latest one I would just change
a date to 'F.D.'

P Next, would you write down those options
above & understand so I can study them

K But I would not be that specific next Wed. I

-Doves (Boston) - April combination

would go further than to say you want to work
for an agreement but think more about how to go.

(Some speech & political discussions
concerning Dallas speech)

