MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Congressman George Mahon
Congressman Otto Passman
Congressman Garner Shriver
Congressman Elford Cederberg
Max L. Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, March 29, 1976
10:25 - 10:55 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

The President: I wanted to talk to you. I think the Senate has made a serious
mistake on this transition quarter. I want to tell you confidentially I can't
buy it.

Mahon: I hope not.

The President: I am in the difficult position of vetoing domestic bills and
the Senate -- for the Israelis, let's face it -- adds this much. I just can't
do it.

I gave $1.5 billion in 1976. OMB thought it should be $750 million for 1977
and I raised it to $1 billion. The technical people say Israel is better off
than before the 1973 war. I just won't capitulate to the lobby. If the Congress
sends down here that bill, I will veto it. If it is overridden, I will send up a
rescission and you will have to vote on that. That isn't good for you all and
the Jewish community.

Cederberg: There are no votes for you there.

Mahon: Can you stand firm with all the Jewish pressure?

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The President: Do you doubt it?
Mahon: If you will, I certainly will. Can you do anything with the Senate?
The President: Max?
Friedersdorf: The Senate bunch is very weak. I think the best is for the House to stand fast.
Mahon: What if we send it to the floor in disagreement?
Passman: We would be clobbered on the floor. The only way is in Conference.
The President: I think a veto will be sustained.
Passman: No, it wouldn't, Mr. President. We can handle it in conference. I have certain questions which I have to resolve. I need a few hours.
The President: I am dedicated to the survival of Israel. But they don't need this and I won't be rolled for it.
Mahon: The basic point is they don't need it so we shouldn't vote it.
Shriver: They are putting out that the Administration would oppose it.
Friedersdorf: That came on the authorizing legislation and a phone call from Humphrey to Kissinger.
P. I wanted to talk to you. I think it's important to have these sensitive matters on the record. I want to talk to you confidentially. I can't say anything else.

Ms. Smith:
P. I'm in a奇怪, position of wanting to tell you something, but I can't. I just can't do it.

Ms. Smith:
P. I can't say anything else. Once that's done, I just can't talk about it anymore. I'm not going to talk about it anymore. If it's going to be leaked, it will be leaked. If it's going to be released, it will be released. If it's going to be written down, it will be written down. That's the key point for me.

Ms. Smith:
P. There are a few things that.

Ms. Smith:
P. Can you stand firm with this?

Ms. Smith:
P. Do you insist on?

Ms. Smith:
P. If I can, I will. If I can't, I won't. Can you stand firm with this?

Ms. Smith:
P. Very.

Ms. Smith:
P. If it's going to be released, it will be released. I'm not going to talk about it anymore. I'm not going to talk about it anymore. If it's going to be written down, it will be written down. If it's going to be leaked, it will be leaked. If it's going to be released, it will be released. If it's going to be written down, it will be written down. The key point for me is that.

Ms. Smith:
P. I stand a cut and be reminded.

Ms. Smith:
P. If it's going to be released, it will be released. I'm not going to talk about it anymore. I'm not going to talk about it anymore. If it's going to be written down, it will be written down. If it's going to be leaked, it will be leaked. If it's going to be released, it will be released. If it's going to be written down, it will be written down.
* Remove back copy as noted.

They don't need this. I won't be needed for it.

N. The basic point is they don't need it as an additional vote.

Sih. They are putting one that I withdraw tipped it.

E. That being the mark, begin to plan and say.

Hamphrey & R.}

For X'ing