MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, April 6, 1976
9:20 - 10:15 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Rumsfeld: Thailand. I think our press coverage should be that we are proceeding as before, and not fall all over ourselves.

Scowcroft: I agree.

President: Fine.

Rumsfeld: Here is an article about Soviet pilots in Cuba. They are operating not as trainers. We can't deny it.

President: How are we coming with the Cuban contingencies?

Scowcroft: We had a meeting yesterday. There will be more on Monday.

President: When will I see it?

Scowcroft: The end of next week.

Rumsfeld: How should we deal with this article?

Scowcroft: How about saying there are some Soviet pilots in Cuba periodically. We have noticed more recently. We are watching to see what if any significance it may have.
Rumsfeld: You check the intelligence and let's talk. That sounds okay.

President: You two work it out.

Rumsfeld: Dismantling SS 7 and 8 silos. [Discussion of what we can do.]

President: My inclination is a note from me to Brezhnev. But we need to move fast.

Rumsfeld: [Describes status of Sixth Fleet for Lebanon-contingencies.]

President: I want to see anything significant we get from Dean Brown.

Scowcroft: Brown hasn't reported anything significant since Henry talked to you yesterday.

Rumsfeld: The [ ] are interested in AWACS and in increases in the intelligence flow.

President: Why not? If that is what we should do, then we should at least go to the Congress. For us to sit on our hands just because of Congress would be irresponsible.

Rumsfeld: Structure a debate in NATO that a communist government means automatic suspension from NATO. If we lost [ ]
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