

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador Dean Brown, Special Emissary
to Lebanon
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, April 27, 1976
9:45 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Despite your trials and tribulations, you look great. I would like to know where we stand, but first of all I would like to thank you on behalf of the American people for the outstanding job you did. We don't have everything we wanted but thanks to you we are in fairly good shape.

Brown: Once we get through this Presidential election we will have a period of uneasy truce, at a tolerable level of violence. A security force that is manipulated by internal and external forces can't do better than that. The problem with this "tolerable level" of violence is that business won't go back in. Every Lebanese with a nickel has moved it out of the country. There are countless groups roaming around looting and killing -- they have to be put against the law and shot. So real security is the basic problem.

The President: Where are we politically?

Brown: Frangieh fiddled for an unconscionable time. He really was afraid he would eventually be brought to trial for his misdeeds. Now there will be an election. These are not just politicians; they are really a group of warlords. And everybody will be buying and selling votes. I hope it will be Sarkis but I am saying publicly we have no candidate, because that would be the kiss of death.

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BY lha, NARA, DATE 7/1/04



The President: How about Asad?

Brown: The Christians were disappointed that he didn't intervene with his divisions. The leftists were worried that he would. The problem with Lebanon is it is run by the same group of old warlords who have been in power since 1943. Until they die off, there is little hope for any real progress.

The President: How much will the Israelis tolerate?

Brown: It is hard to know how many Syrian troops there are -- they are well disguised.

The President: How about Arafat?

Brown: For a while, he was doing most of the fighting. Because the leftists left it to the PLO. Then Asad told him that was crazy, getting his Palestinians all chopped up.

The President: I noticed a number of Lebanese have moved to Cyprus.

Brown: Yes. They are waiting there to see what happens.

The President: When will you go back?

Brown: I thought I would wait until the election is held so I wouldn't be accused of plotting.

The President: Are the Christians Arabs?

Brown: Yes. But only the Maronites are involved. There are 500,000 more Christians who aren't even involved. The Lebanese problem won't be solved until the Palestinian problem is solved.

The President: Jumblatt isn't a Moslem.

Brown: He is an offshot called Druze. He is crazy.

The President: Again, we thank you. Are we welcomed there by everyone?

Brown: Very much so. They want someone to solve their problems. I think we should help in any way everyone approves -- including training their security forces.

P/Dean Bunn

28 Apr 76

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P Despite your trials & trib. you look great. I would love to know where you stand, but I'd of so I would like to thank you on behalf of our people for your outstanding job. We don't have anything we wanted but thanks to you we are in fairly good shape.

B Once we get thru this election we will have a period of uneasy truce, at a tolerable level of unrest. A security has ^{emerged} ~~emerged~~ better than internal & external forces ~~is better than~~ that. The prob of this "tolerable" level of unrest is that business won't go back in. Every balance as a wheel has moved it out of country. There are countries going back & forth - they have to be put against a law that ^{is} security is a basic job

P without an objective.

B Franzer folded for an unconscious time. He ended final he would event, he brought to trial for murder.

~~There~~ Now there will be an election. These are not just politicians, they are crooks. And everybody will be buying & selling votes. Maybe it will be Jenkins but I suspect we have no candidate cause that could be his death.

P Howard Deal

B The Christians were disappointed that he didn't intervene of his duties. The leftists were worried that we would.

The prob of Johnson is it is run by old ~~old~~ conspirators have been in power since

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1943. Tell they die of, there is little hope for any real prog.

P How much will I tolerate.

B It hard to know how many Spanish troops are there - they are well disguised.

P How about airport

B For a while, he was doing most of the fighting since the leftists left it to the P.O. Then he had told him that was crazy, getting his Paks, all chopped up.

P I noticed a # of balloons have moved a 2/3

B Yes. They are waiting there to see what happens.

P When will you go back.

B That I would wait til a election held, so I wouldn't be accused of plotting.

P Are Christians Arabs?

B Yes. Best only a minority are involved. There are 500,000 more Christians who aren't even involved.

The balance part won't be solved until a Paks prob is solved.

P Is that isn't a Muslim?

B He is an offshoot called Derg. He is crazy.

P Again, we thank you. Are we welcomed by everyone?

B Very much so. They want someone to solve their probs.

I think we should help in any way anyone opposes - including training their security forces.

