MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
David Lissy, White House Staff
Jewish Leaders (Tab A)

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, June 24, 1976
5:00 - 6:50 p.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

Fisher: I want to introduce a group of leaders who want you to be re-elected.

[More words of introduction.]

President: I am very grateful you came by to hear me say a few words, but I’d like mostly to respond to your questions.

You are interested in the economy. One year ago, we were in trouble. Now you know as well as I do that we are headed in the right direction. To best coordinate the economy, it is important to work with the leaders of the other industrial countries. That is why I am going to Puerto Rico this weekend to meet with them, in a continuation of Rambouillet. [More on the economy.]

In the Middle East, the situation in Lebanon is a mess. The line-up there is so complex as to be unbelievable. [Describes] Israel has been magnificent in its restraint. We are working for a resolution of this difficult situation. My relationship with Prime Minister Rabin and the Israeli Government is excellent and I think he would agree.
I have recommended 40% of all the aid given to Israel since its independence. I am not apologizing -- I am proud of it.

There are some problems. Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union was 35,000 in 1974; it's 1,000 a month now. We must get it back up there.

In Defense, I was known in Congress as the biggest hawk. [Made the standard pitch about turning around the trend of the defense budgets.] I strongly believe the U.S. must keep its leadership role in the world through our strength and our diplomacy.

Question: What would be our reaction to attempts to expel Israel from the UN?

President: We would vigorously oppose it, mobilizing our friends and all other resources.

Question: In the event of a resolution of Lebanon, how would you see the position of the PLO?

President: One can only speculate, but I would see Syria as the dominant element. I see the PLO as having only a minimum role in Lebanon. I think Syria will play a big role and they are working with the Christians. I think the PLO will play a minimum role.

Question: Syria is an age-old enemy of Israel. In that case, how do you see them in that role on the flank of Israel?

President: The greatest deterrent is the military capability of Israel. You will notice the Syrians didn't do all that well against the PLO. What better solution in Lebanon would you propose than the one I outlined? Partition would still have the Arabs on the Israeli border and the Christian state separated. Or, the Libyans and Iraqis with the radicals could triumph. How would that be?

Question: I'd like to ask about the Transition Quarter. If you could resolve it at the $375 million level, it would certainly help us with our constituents.

President: [Described the FY 76 budget submission. Then pointed out the TQ problem.] For FY 77 -- the 15 month period -- the low agency recommendation was $500. We had all the intelligence
estimates. I told the high figure of $1 billion. At that time, I was
told it included the necessary figure for the TQ. [Described the
FY 77 figures.] The Senate added $550 million for the Transition
Quarter. That was contrary to all the experts in the Administra-
tion, many of whom thought I was too high. We were also facing a
fiscal crisis in the government. I decided I had to cut the budget
growth from 11% to 5.5%. So I need to make cuts, and at the same
time I was increasing the Defense budget. It was a difficult
situation.

[Described the meetings with Congress.] I will continue to work
with the Hill and I think we can resolve it to take care of the real
needs. It will probably be more than the $200, but it may be not so
high as the Congress wishes.

Question: Could you tell us how committed the United States is to
Israel? How important is it and why, beyond the fact it is a
democracy and a friend?

President: I think one of the best indications of my commitment is
the word of two Israeli Ambassadors -- Rabin and Dinitz. They both
know it and will testify to it.

[Described his admiration of the American Jewish people and
the development of Israel and the accomplishments of both.

Question: Could you expand on what our specific interests are in a
security sense or other sense in Israel?

President: Israel is in a vital spot in the Middle East. It is an area
of great riches and strategic importance and Israel is the key to
peace in the region.

Question: Soviet Jewry. We need to find a way to rectify this terrible
situation.

President: [Described the situation.] We would like to rectify the
situation and we are willing to work with the Congress if we can get
the votes. It would be realistically hard to do in this unusual legis-
slative year.
Question: Boycott: There are two measures in the Congress now which hit companies that are abiding by the boycott.

President: I don't want to comment on specific legislation, but we are working on the boycott. We haven't gotten far enough, but we are doing things.

Question: On the domestic side, quotas are really hurting. What is your attitude?

President: The quotas are anathema to me. [Long description.]

Question: The thing most Americans want is a new unity of America under its principles. You as a person stand for that, but I don't think that is coming through in your campaign organization.
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P/ Jewish Leaders
28th June 76

F

P

F want to introduce you with what you do beleive.

(Here words of introduction)

P

Very grateful you came to hear some say so

and words but mostly to defend your position.

You are interested in a country. Once you

are a war time trouble. Even you know

as well as I that we have been in a great

situation. To have heard the news it is

important to work as a league of interested

leaders. That why it goings to P.L. the method

to work on the Constitution of [Handwritten]

(Here in a)

In this, the seat in Lebanon is a war.

The thing that is to say why to be

unbelievable. (Beawake) I have been

worrying in the sitting down on working

the Constitution of it is a lot.

My relationship of [Handwritten] not important

I have some. Got in with some and you

it come into identical. I start agitating and I

proed it.

There are some [Handwritten] Jewish emigration

from 1938-1940 in 76, 1000-10000 was

we must get it to help there.

In defense I many known in [Handwritten] it is just

needed.

(Yours a standards pitch about turning

around a third of the budgets)

I strongly believe it must keep its

leadership role in a world thus seen.
A. The quotient of a number and itself is zero. Explain why this statement is true.

B. If a small object has a mass of 3.25 kg and an initial velocity of 4.5 m/s, what is its kinetic energy?

C. The sum of two numbers is 28. If one number is 15, what is the other number?

D. What is the square root of 64?

E. A right triangle has one leg that is 3 units long and the other leg that is 4 units long. What is the length of the hypotenuse?
(Written by hand).
The Senate added 5.50 mid for T.B. Should we continue to fly once a Author's way of
with the James T. Lingers. We must also focus on a fiscal base in corporate federal health
costs, budget growth from 10% to 5.5%, 2.2% 5.5% makes extra reads somewhat more R. C. Dependent,
It was a big fit.
(Detailed in my w/ring). I will continue to
continue/will 2 until we can mention it.
Take care of our needs. First more from 2007,
say the not 6 1/4 or a long read.
Q: Would you tell us how using 2011 is. How
important is it? If it is, they still stay in the company.

P: With one of the best understandings, my understanding
word of c. I am on a lot of things. They both
were so with myself it's. On
(Described his administration c. test with a c. 
clarify the I am and then concerning behind 1
battle.

Q: Could you please what can specific interest
are in the security or other since I
P: I myself control what or c. N.C. It is enough
part extra and that my room is to key 1
peace in c. again.
A: Scott Jerry. We need to find a way to
modify this though set.

P: (Described c. situation. Self in world with
inhabit a set and modify to work of c. Group
we can get out. It would not included
hard to do in this unusual days since.)
A. Boycott: There is an interesting line in a long
quote which would not copy and which I think

P. (Said) said he didn't want to comment
on any specific line, but we can continue the
quote. We haven't gotten far along but we
and doing things.

Q. On domestic policy, you too are really hunting.
What is your attitude?

P. A note on something to me (being described)
Q. The thing that Anne wrote is a version of America
under its principles, just as a person from
that that I don't think that is congruent
in your campaign again.