MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME:  
Tuesday, August 3, 1976  
9:36 - 10:55 a.m.

PLACE:  
The Oval Office

The President: The speech played well (the Secretary's Boston speech to the  
Urban League the evening before).

Kissinger: The mistake I made was to take questions.

The President: I sent the speech to Hartmann, noting it was excellent.

Have we heard from the British (on Southern Africa)?

Kissinger: Yes, but it wasn't satisfactory. They want to know how much  
money it will cost and don't want to call it a government. I am having breakfast  
Thursday with them. They are blackmailing us a bit on Namibia, but we  
don't need them for that. We have to be careful they don't go off on their  
own. We will propose a joint delegation to the blacks or else missions in  
close succession.

The President: Are the South Africans still on board?

Kissinger: I think so.

Scowcroft: I spoke to Botha yesterday and they are still ready to charge.

Kissinger: [to Scowcroft] Did you tell him about my speech?
Scowcroft: Yes. He had already anticipated it.

Kissinger: Have you seen the latest Gallup poll on this?

The President: No.

Kissinger: I'll send it over.

As you know, I am going to Iran tomorrow. It couldn't be a worse time. Treasury and Defense are going after the Shah. Simon is going around saying the Shah is dangerous and shouldn't have exotic weapons. And Ellsworth and Defense are viciously anti-Iran.

[Described the July 1972 Nixon memo and what really happened.]

The President: I saw in the New York Times that Schlesinger had a man over there.

Kissinger: He was playing his usual game of setting up his own channels of communication.

But it had nothing to do with the policy -- just a screw-up in the Administration.

The President: The Shah is a good friend. He didn't go along with the embargo. We aren't going to be stampeded by the newspapers.

Kissinger: You can't do anything before November, but between Treasury and DOD they are on a vicious campaign.

The President: I will talk to Don because I think Iran is very important to us.

Kissinger: We are playing with fire. We have thrown away Turkey and now Iran.

There are stories now about China and Taiwan -- Ron should say it's not a large change. They are making public statements that we have heard in private. We are prepared to continue on the path of normalization. We have stated our view. Obviously there are differences remaining. And say no more.

The President: Scott's trip report said we should recognize the PRC if they promise not to use force.
Kissinger: If we could have gotten that, we would be home free. If we could just keep these do-gooders out of it, we could coast along.

Anyway, it will be rough in Iran. But if we get rid of the Shah, we will have a radical regime on our hands.

Anything you say to Kekkonen will go straight to Brezhnev. So you might say how dedicated you are to detente, you want to move on SALT and other things and after the elections you will make a major effort.

The President: Let me tell you what I decided on SALT. I asked Brent for a spread sheet showing the difference between the two options. Then I will get Don over here and ask him to explain the military differences between them.

Kissinger: I spoke to Javits this morning. He can live with any Vice President, though he would prefer a liberal. But he said you should get a foreign policy success -- like SALT. That is what John Anderson said also.

The President: That is what I think.

Kissinger: I think you can wait until after the Convention, then Gromyko can come here in September and argue with you, then we could wrap it up in October.

The President: Let me have that comparison chart and then I will talk to Don. Then we'll see where we go.

Kissinger: On Sidewinders for the Saudis: I would like to cut them to 1,000 until after the elections.

The President: Okay.

Kissinger: CBU's for Israel. We have in essence promised it. The liberals will yell but I guess we have to go ahead.

Scowcroft: The problem is they won't give us guarantees on their use.

Kissinger: On participation of the executive in CSCE Commission. I sent Monroe Leigh up there to be tough. But to our surprise, the Congressional members gave us a lot of sympathy. I think they don't want their hands tied. The real problem is Millicent Fenwick. She is a dear lady, but she is a little obtuse. I am not sure how we are going to bring her along.
P The speech played well.
K The minister 2 was not to the president.
P Did he speak to Mr. Johnson? No, he was absent.
K I have heard from Mrs. B. She said:
P Yes, but it wasn't nice. They wanted to hear about the new money she had received and call it a gift. We don't care what they call it, I'm sorry about Thomas. They shouldn't have let him die. Memories are not so bad when we don't have them, either.
K We have to be careful. They don't find their own.
P And now, your joint obligation to blame a [sentence cut off in handwriting].

- P and E. O. Oppenheimer both blind.
- K They died.
- S. I spoke to Mr. Johnson, but they are still ready to change.
- K Did you tell him about my speech?
- S. Yes. He said already anticipated it.
- K Time you show a little cutting back on this.
- P No.

K Yet that isn't over.

As early tomorrow, I pray it soon, tomorrow it will be a worse thing. T VIDEO DEF are going after a stock. Simon is going around saying c Stock is dangerous that but have debt on the wrong.

And Ellsworth's before in court and anti-Jean.

(Annexed c Hope memo of what really happened)

P There is a NYT that Scheher had a run over there.

K He was playing his usual game of setting up Wisconsin Channel of communications.
We are playing suffice. We hate the answer. Turkey is very clean.

There are stories now about China. Cornwall. Now should say (sic). (p. 3)

I wish the quiet and we should always if they propose not to come from.

If you could have gotten this, you would be true. If we could just keep these as public not if it were well want along.

Anyway, it will be tough in town. But if not get did the stuff we will have a real hugh when we heard.

Anything you say to Jeffrey will be stopped. He says I might say about this subject many a district, you want to move on solid other thing. After pictures you will write more.

P. Let me tell you what I decided on what. I will not get your speech that (bid). Then I will get here and have with them to explain and try but them.

K. I refer to points this meaning. He can send of any VP, he would prefer a liberal that is...
and your should put a filter once before salt.
That is what John Anderson said also

I think that is what I think.
I think some can't. We often do convention,
then maybe someone here in Sept. a argu-

But we know that comparison chart. Then I will

talk to him. They will see where we go.

* K: On September for Sanka. I would like to eat

 them & have a lot of fun dinner.

 P: OK.

* K: One Friday for N. We have in advance period. The

dinner will still not. I guess we have postponed/

S: The pub is they won't give me guarantees on

some.

Café: Our participation of group in CEE team.

Don't worry. They might not be tough. But

them surprise. They only mention you as a lot of area Equally. I think

them don't want them hardly will. The

rail pub is William Farnie. She

is a dear lady, but she is a little

stouter. I would never want me going to

bring her along.