MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE AND TIME: Saturday - September 11, 1976
9:10 - 10:15 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: The FBI made a bad mistake in releasing the hijacker's letter to the press. It isn't the substance but the policy of giving in to hijackers. [More discussion.]

I have the impression that the Soviets are on the verge of exploding at our slaps at them. We can't be soft on them but we should be careful because they could make it tough in October.

On my trip, there is no way a finished document can emerge from my trip. The best we can expect is a conference being convened, which will turn into one huge donnybrook.

On Rhodesia, we have the framework pretty well worked out with the British. I thought we would try to get Smith to put forward our plan as their proposal. Vorster would get it worked out, then the Rhodesian Cabinet would meet with me in Pretoria. They would go back home and come out with the proposal after a week or two.

The President: That seems like a good scenario. At least if it blows up it will be on their heads, not ours.

Kissinger: That is right, and there is a high chance of failure.

The President: Chiefly because of the Africans?
Kissinger: Yes. They are wholly unreliable. It is just impossible to predict how they will behave.

The President: What does Vorster say about his domestic problems?

Kissinger: I wish you could meet him. He is a fine man. He could stop it immediately if he acted like he did 15 years ago and killed 300 blacks in the next riot. I think he might have to create autonomous areas.

The President: Like Transkei?

Kissinger: He can't go to majority rule right away.

[Discussion of black psychology -- U.S. and foreign.]

I will be leaving Monday morning. [Discussion of the British Cabinet changes.]

The President: How about Soares? He wants a lot of aid.

Kissinger: And we should do it. But he is ineffective. The basic structure in Portugal is okay and we can assist Soares.

The President: And Spain is looking good.

[General discussion about Europe and the campaign.]

Kissinger: Have you given up on SALT? I am not recommending you proceed. If we had three months ago, we would be in good shape.

The President: As I told Brent earlier, on November 3 Ikle is going to be out of a job. I think he is in collusion with Defense.

Kissinger: Maybe not at the Rumsfeld level, but certainly at the staff level.

If you move now, you will be leaked to death and we will both be on the defensive on it.

The President: It is a damned crime. But let's have an NSC meeting anyway when you get back. I want to use that comparative chart Brent drew up. I want to hear them explain what are the differences between the two positions in terms which make military sense.
K. The F-86 made one bad mistakes in releasing the bomb, hit the - gas. It cannot understand that a spinning jamming into a aircraft.

(Some more discussion)

I have impression that we can use an engineer of applying at one stage of them. We can't grab them, but we should be careful because they could make trouble in it.

On my way, there is no way a fumbled bombist can escape from my leg. Then, that we can think is a reference they examined, which will turn into one large ding-dong work.

On Khorshid, we have a framework with what would work with our bullet. I tell we would try to get Smith to get around our plan as their proposal. Otherwise, even if it works, there is a kluid that would need some move in Britain. They would go back have amount of a proposal of to make a 2.

P. That seems like a good scenario, at least it is better way it will be on their hands, whoever.

K. First is right - well this is a high chance of finding.

P. Chiefly because of General?

K. Yes. They are wholly unreliable. It is just impossible to predict how they will behave.

P. What does feature x about his domestic parts.

K. I think you could meet them. A nice a find means he could stay at immediately.
I will be leaving Washington Monday.

(Discussion of cabinet changes.)

P: How about Secretary? He wants a lot said.
K: And we should say it, but he is insufficient.
S: He is now faced w/ general theory vs. specific law.
K: But we cannot rewrite it.
R: This is an attempt to rewrite.
K: I think we can adopt some of the new ideas.
P: And Spain is looking good.

(Continued discussion about Iran & a campaign.)

Q: How are you on Gulf? Don't want to recommit you to proceed. If we had 3 months ago we would be in good shape.
P: As I told blunt earlier, one hour of oil is going to be just a fact. I think we are in collision w/ def.
R: Maybe not at a naval level, but a territorial level.
K: If you were doing away with oil, you will be talked to about it, and will both mean

P: It is a chemical weapon. And let them see what they will do.
K: I want

To see what everybody about

P: It is a chemical weapon.
up, I want to have them explain what
are the differences between
items, which make military sense.