MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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: Friday, September 24, 1976
              6:05 - 6:40 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
       The White House

Kissinger: I hadn't realized the degree of Soviet penetration in Africa.
          They own all the newspapers, for example.
          I got tough with Nyerere when he started kicking me around.

          Smith was a gentleman. I didn't have to kick him. I just laid out
          the situation, and we couldn't guarantee anything, but at least this way they would
          have a chance. The Rhodesians were great; there was no whining. I told
          him if he rejected it I would be relieved, because in two years when
          it blew up we'd know we had done our best. I drafted a five-point plan
          which was then accepted. The uncertainty is what the Soviet Union will do.

The President: What can they do?

Kissinger: They can stir up Mozambique, one of the Rhodesian factions,
          etc. They may not dare to take you on. If they don't we can get an interim
          government sooner. We have to move fast before the opposition can mobilize.

The President: Where would Smith fit into the interim government?
Kissinger: The whites would nominate the whites and the blacks the blacks.

The President: Would Nkomo be in?

Kissinger: Kaunda wants him but Nyerere is playing games.

I don’t think the radicals will turn it down but they may try to delay. If they do, after the election you may want to let up on the whites a bit for the present.

The President: What about Namibia?

Kissinger: [Outlined the development of Namibian proposals].

I think we should play for time.

Scowcroft: And the UN?

Kissinger: We maybe can get a unanimous declaration. We would have to veto sanctions. I have sent Schaufele and Reinhardt around to line up the moderates.

We can claim major success in Namibia and we should.

In the South, portray it as keeping the Soviets out, preventing civil war and giving the whites a chance.

The President: How about sitting down with the editors from the South so we can get this in the proper perspective?

Kissinger: Maybe tomorrow or Monday. We’d better have more than just the South, though.

The President: Is Machel a problem?

Kissinger: Yes, but it is hard to say what we will do. He hasn’t said anything yet.

[Discussion of Mexico, Middle East, Lebanon, boycott, Jewish community, Sidewinder/Maverick.]

[Secretary Kissinger will send someone to Mexico to try to get Echeverria to hold off on the fisheries agreement until November.]
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