

MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~ 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: Thursday, October 21, 1976
8:32 - 9:16 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: I saw Hubert Humphrey yesterday up in New York. He wants you to win.

On the debate, he says you're answering Carter too much and not putting forward what you stand for. On 4% growth you should say "I could make it faster but at the cost of high inflation. What I have done is reduce inflation. Inflation is a tax on you. I was thinking of your pocketbook. I could have pushed things higher easily, but I instead am reducing this most cruel tax on you."

On peace, he says you aren't getting across. He says peace is like a cathedral. "I am putting it together stone by stone." Carter is saying you can do it overnight, but it will collapse.

I met at the Council on Foreign Relations with the media executives. They loathe Carter. Even Arthur Schlesinger says he won't vote at all. Yankelovich says there is a hidden vote for you with the undecided.

On the boycotts, I said it is easy to grandstand. But when he is mounting attacks on Saudi Arabia, which can be a strong force for good, it is appalling. Carter is just reckless -- in what he says he will and what he won't do. (Cites Yugoslavia-Korea example)

President: Did you see this article about the USIA polls that show our prestige is down? (Tab A)

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NSC MEMO, 11/2/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY MM
NARA DATE 7/20/09

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Kissinger: It is a total outrage. I am going to have Keogh's ass.

President: Please do.

Kissinger: I talked to Joe Kraft. He is nuts, but he seems to be favorable. (Described what Kraft would ask Carter and the President.)

On the SALT question, I wouldn't get too technical. I would say "Let's first understand the problem. We and the Soviet Union have the capacity to destroy the world."

Incidentally, Wasserman said you shouldn't be so strident and defensive -- be more fatherly and talk to the people. We will never go for peace at any price, but only if they respect us. What happened is early in the year they sent troops into Angola. I sent Kissinger to Moscow to warn them, and the downturn in our relations was to show them these things are not free.

Carter says there is no progress on SALT. He doesn't know what he is talking about. It is 90% complete and it will be finished soon.

I wouldn't defend on detente what we haven't done; say what you have done. Say on SALT we have made progress, even this year, and it is 90% done. There are two problems left and I will be able to complete it soon after the election.

President: His freeze is what we did in 1972.

Kissinger: Even worse. He is giving away what you have already achieved. In '72 they had the new programs -- we had nothing. This year it's just the opposite.

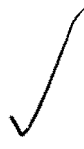
Above all, I think the public wants to know what you are for and that you have a vision. Get him in the position of the guy who promises anything to anybody. He threatens the Saudis; he gives the Soviets a free hand in Yugoslavia. On the Sonnenfeldt Doctrine, deny there is one. I would say we never will promise anything we can't deliver.

Humphrey says you should say "I haven't been able to spend all my time running for the Presidency; I have been busy being the President." Tell them about the many foreign leaders you have met with. The people don't know that.



Don't get involved

P/K 21 OCT 76



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On peace, he says you aren't getting across. A = no peace is like a cathedral. I putting it together slow by slow. Carter saying you can do it overnight that it will collapse. I met ~~at~~ at CFR w/ media executives. They loath Carter. Even A. Schles says he won't vote at all. Yankelovich says there is a billion votes for you w/ undecided.

On budget, I said it easy to pass. But when he ^{writes} attacks Social Security which can be a strong force for good, it is appalling. Carter is just a blunder in what he says he will + what he won't do.

(Carter Yugo / Korea example)

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H. anything - say you should say I have been
able to spend all my time working for a Pres;
I have been busy being a Pres. Tell them how
many foreign leaders you have met w/ - a people
don't hear that.