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: Thursday, November 4, 1976
3:34 - 4:49 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: You did a noble job.

President: Back in August the odds we figured were 2½ to 1.

Kissinger: I am worried about our foreign policy.

President: They herded the blacks to the polls.

Scowcroft: They may start feeling their power.

President: If Bella Abzug had won or if McCarthy had been on the ballot in New York, we would have won in New York. But you can go on and on with those.

Kissinger: I am sick when I think of all the things we are on the verge of getting in foreign policy -- the Middle East, Rhodesia, Namibia, SALT, non-proliferation, etc.

You have nothing to feel sorry about. You took over when the government was falling to pieces. You have been a good President. You have had bad luck. Reagan.

President: Agricultural prices, unemployment.
Kissinger: And on employment, just a few months would have made the difference.

What those bastards did to you in the Pentagon....

President: I agree with you.

Kissinger: They will pay for it.

Scowcroft: All you have to do is look at the budget figures.

President: That's right. Defense has been allocated 119 and what are they up to?

Scowcroft: 130 and rising.

President: There is just no way. They are nuts.

Kissinger: They have got to fund their social programs. They will say it's fat, etc., but it will be bad.

(Discussion of possible personnel.)

President: Tell me about Geneva. I see Smith has packed his bags.

Kissinger: That means nothing. The blacks are making optimistic sounds and they are now actually going down the five points.

Did you know Makarios called a holiday when Carter won?

President: Really? How about the Israelis?

(Discussion of Jewish votes, Dayan, etc.)

Kissinger: The Israelis need you, too, though they may not realize that for a while. They think they are in the clear now, but the Soviets will get back in and we may have a war.

President: I am worried about oil prices. Is there anything we can do?

Kissinger: We could send an emissary, but I don't think you should risk your prestige on it.
President: Should it be you?

Kissinger: I am about in as bad shape as you. I hate to tell you, but these foreigners will start buttering up to Carter. Maybe Robinson. I think the best for you and me is to do the day-to-day business. The bureaucracy will start blocking if we try.

But you should go to the Middle East next year after a decent interval.

Scowcroft: That is an excellent idea. I think you need to stay in the limelight and lead the party. Otherwise Reagan will take it over.

(Discussion of Scranton UN issues -- UN, Angola, Israeli occupied lands.)

(More discussion of the election.)

President: What about Lebanon?

Kissinger: Another great success. The PLO is going back with their camps, being put into their place, Syria has things under control, the Saudis are doing okay, and the Arab League Army is going to protect the Israeli border for infiltration.

(Discussion of Republican politics.)

Kissinger: Carter I think could easily be a one-term President.

President: He has a lot of IOU's out, in bad hands. We may have another 1946.

(General discussion)

Kissinger: These new guys are hungry. They are thinking of their prerogatives, not the country. What a President needs to have is the ability to live in a pressure cooker day-after-day. A President has to have a steady character to be able to withstand the pressure.
K: Don't have much info.

P: Back in any event, out of favor in 1970.

K: Various other kinds of getting in.

P: Agricultural prices, unemployment.

K: And unemployment, just a few months... went through the deep.

What these costs do should have some impact.

P: Expenses?

K: They will pay for it.

S: All your here is in line with budget figures.

P: This year Defense has been allocated.

What about that?

S: 150.

P: There is just no way. They are not.

K: They won't get to spend their social programs, they said.
say its fat, etc. but it will be bad
(remarks of possible pressure)
P: Tell me about sound. Sara Smith has
prepared this loop
K: That seems nothing. The blacks want
government control. They are more actually
giving support -
P: Did you from mistakes could be holding?
P: Really, how about a jacking?
(Discussion of Jamaica votes, Dajam, etc.)
K: Tell Brooks. I will you too. They
are most likely. It's a while. I think they
are even now. But these will get back in
my lane now.
P: Does eurack about out pixies. Do they
anything you can do?
K: I can tell you can win that. I don't
think you should risk your prestige on
it.
P: Should it be you?
K: I am almost in as bad shape as you. I
did it to tell you, but then forget me that
developing up to Carter. In due Robinson.
I think I don't for you to move in the way
to lay business. The inexperienced will
start backing of an olig.
But you should go in like. Next year.
After a decent mouth
S. That is an excellent idea. I think you and
the group will do it.

(Continued discussion of UN and UN
bribery, Israeli controlled banks)

I called about these.

R. In the past success. We are moving by the
upstairs room, being put into the place. Syria
does things under control. Sandinistas, etc.

Once again we are going to protest. I love for
infiltration.

(Continuation of Republic Party)

K. Carter, I think could really be in one term.

R. He has a lot of influence in both hands.

(More discussion)

I. These two are funny. They are thinking
of their guns, not a country. What does
the world have in a country to have in
a person's rush day. A person

(End of discussion)