

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

del NARA Date 12/20/04

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
and Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs
Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN, Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff

DATE & TIME: Friday, September 14, 1973
5:30 p. m.

PLACE: Dr. Kissinger's Office
The White House

SUBJECT: State/JCS Relations



Kissinger: We've got to redo the whole personnel system. They are unbelievable. You talk to them about a job and they say they don't want it. Can you imagine a colonel doing that?

Moorer: Not unless they want to retire.

On military-political relationships. For the first time, we have the opportunity for synchronizing military and foreign policy. We must get State over the idea that military force is bad and the natural enemy of diplomacy. It must be planned at the highest level. Start ideas at the top and let them filter down rather than from the bottom up.

Kissinger: We should have a weekly meeting with Scowcroft, Moorer, Schlesinger, Colby and me. I will talk NSC business.

Moorer: What are our priorities? To live in safety, maintain our standard of living, take care of our friends -- if they don't rock the boat -- and contribute towards the millenium -- modestly. Even be nice to psuedo-friends if it serves our interest.

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CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
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The military can help you if we accompany you on some trips. This can convey a good message.

Kissinger: If I go to the Soviet Union and take you, the Chinese may fear we are having staff talks.

How about the NATO Ministerial meeting?

Moorer: I'll be along.

Kissinger: That's a good idea. We will consider it every time I make a trip.

Moorer: We can collect intelligence. We would plan carefully. We could have liaison with you. Eagleburger could be it. We could put a senior military man with you. Sy Weiss and Tom Pickering wouldn't like it. We could assign him on the NSC with his duty at State.

Kissinger: We should reinstitute the one here. We could assign him here but give him a desk at State also.

I will not tolerate an institutional confrontation between State and the JCS. We won't say anything until after my confirmation. Give me a top man. The CNO mentioned Shanahan.

Moorer: ACDA is heading the MBFR backstopping group. It is a bad idea psychologically with our allies.

Kissinger: Ikle is pretty tough.

Moorer: It's not a matter of personality; it just looks like a focus on disarmament.

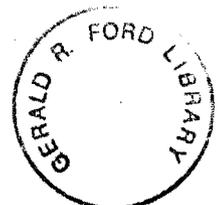
Kissinger: I'll talk to Rumsfeld.

Moorer: There is Southcom and our military presence in Latin America.

The President two years ago said the Southcom should be strong and he wanted more military in Latin America. The nature of the Southcom is purely its political value.

Kissinger: Southcom will stay.

Moorer: Forces in Thailand.



Kissinger: I would stay until the dry season and if nothing happens then, go down to 32,000. You should go slow.

Moorer: A Naval Attache in Tunisia. State objects.

Kissinger: Consider it done unless there is a massive problem we don't know about.

Moorer: Law of the Sea. We need to hang on the 12-mile territorial sea and freedom of straits.

Kissinger: That is our policy. We will insist.

Moorer: The JCS is up at the UN. Scali said he wanted to do away with it.

Kissinger: I will take care of it when I am in.

George Meany is all out for a big defense budget. If you could give him the data, he could lobby strongly for us.

Moorer: I'll take care of it.

Kissinger: We'll plan on a weekly breakfast.



