

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

BY dal NARA DATE 11/25/08

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and
Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Wednesday, August 14, 1974
11:45 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

Kissinger: The overall situation: Sadat courageously bet on the U.S. last winter. The Soviets had poured equipment on and they are getting little from us. The nuclear plant is held up on an Israeli technicality. We are trying to get Butz to make a year's commitment of PL-480.

President: He signed 100,000 tons.

Kissinger: That is the first quarter. Tell him you will do the utmost.

On negotiations: The Jordanians want to go first. Egypt feels they can't wait. They want something by October 6.

[Wilson calls]

President: [To Wilson:] Hello. I am looking forward to renewing our acquaintance.... I want to congratulate Callaghan on his action on a difficult Cyprus matter.... Henry and my colleagues agree we should let the dust settle. We are especially appreciative of the ten days Callaghan spent night and day -- it wasn't his fault it didn't work out. I hope that sometime -- I haven't talked to Henry -- that we can get together face-to-face and have a close personal discussion as well as a mutual relationship. If we work together, we can do a great deal better....



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That is nice of you. I appreciate your call. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

[The call ends]

Kissinger: Wilson is a sneaky, devious character.

President: What about Heath?

Kissinger: He has lots of guts, but is unbelievably petty. He sulks. He gets his feelings hurt and sulks for months.

Heath never dealt really with Nixon after he heard he was taped. He was the only British leader who was indifferent to the United States. All the rest preferred ties to the U.S. rather than to Europe. Heath made the blowup with Europe possible. The tone changed as soon as Wilson came in -- even though Heath is much more of a man. Wilson is a greasy sort of man. They are better right now, but over the long pull the Conservatives are better. If Labour gets a hefty majority, we will have more trouble. He'll have a wild left wing. It's a poor Cabinet. Healy is nice but totally unprincipled. Roy Jenkins is good but he's an intellectual and they have trouble in the Labour Party. The Minister of Energy is outstanding, intelligent -- very solid. The people say he has a great future. I like Callaghan best. He's a very decent man.

President: I met Healy in '61 or '62. Kennedy's R&D man invited me to his home and Healy was there. He was delightful. He said if they came in they would stop the Concorde.

Kissinger: Back to Fahmy: He is afraid we will push for Jordan rather than Egypt. We should, but we need Egypt. You should tell him we will put Egypt first. That problem with Hussein -- but we discussed that. You should get a promise he will help you with Jordan. Also you need 4-6 weeks to get control of the government before you move. You really should.

President: Before or after Moscow?

Kissinger: We should start before but complete it after. I may have to go consecutively to Cairo and Jerusalem the end of September. If I go to Moscow in October and you go to Vladivostok in December, I should go



to China the middle of September -- about the 10th. I would stop in Tokyo on the basis of preparing your trip -- a total of 6-7 days. I don't want to, but I am worried about the Chinese seeing all this Soviet activity.

Israel wants to wait until next year. No way. The Syrians might not wait. You should tell Dobrynin you won't meet Brezhnev if the Syrian buildup turns into something.

Tell Fahmy another oil embargo will have dire consequences -- you don't have to spell it out. Allon promised ideas in three or four days for a Sinai move. But we have heard nothing yet. Fahmy says, "How can we believe you?"

We are doing a paper for you on Israeli aid. There is no small dispute within the bureaucracy. The big issue is with Congress -- how much to ask for. I could confirm the shopping list.

The Saudi purchasing mission came here to buy it for their account. I would tell Clements to do it.

President: How is that bureaucratically?

Kissinger: I'm afraid of leaks. You could tell Schlesinger and insure him to secrecy.

President: How about getting both of them over here? I think that is best. We want it implemented with total security in Defense.

Kissinger: Good. Maybe meet early next week. If you could assure Fahmy of this.

President: It would be part of the Saudi sale.

Kissinger: Yes, it should be part of a larger package.

President: What are we agreeing to?

Kissinger: Tell him you signed for 100,000 but the year total will be higher. You're going to work with Congress to get the \$250 million. You've approved the supply arrangement and the list Nixon gave Sadat -- with strict security. We will have to get Congress involved, but deliveries can't start before the first of the year.

I will write Sadat again.



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