

MEMORANDUM

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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: September 21, 1974 - Saturday
10:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: Vignes is related to Cuba. We must not be driven by events and be beaten to death by the OAS. In November, I recommend we abstain and everyone else will vote yes. We ought to get something for any change. We ought to establish some contacts with the Cubans. Frank Mankiewicz has offered, but we ought to deal directly. Maybe someone in their UN mission -- he should have a reentry visa and not be restricted to a 25-mile radius.

President: Can we wait until November?

Kissinger: Sure.

On Vignes. They are very proud and can be obnoxious and somewhat racist. The Latins and Arabs are two places where with flattery you can get more than you anticipated. Vignes is old but looks young.

President: Is he a Peronist?



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Kissinger: He is very close to Peron. Argentina reestablished relations with Cuba in defiance of everyone -- but they have been very helpful in defusing Cuba from the meetings last spring. This week there was a meeting on Cuba. The original draft was a disaster, but I worked with Vignes and it isn't bad now. It will be passed in November in Quito.

You could thank him for his leadership. We look at Argentina as an Latin American leader. We will try to make a success of the Buenos Aires if he helps.

President: Is that an OAS or Foreign Ministers meeting?

Kissinger: Foreign Ministers. Most of them think the OAS is moribund. You could say you are sending me down -- it has been promised for a long time. They forced us to let them sell trucks to Cuba -- but since then they have been cooperative.

Say you are open-minded about Cuba but we will not be pressured -- we have our pride.

With Argentina and Brazil on our side, we can manage the OAS.

With Gromyko, I would make it only half an hour. I would push SALT a little bit. As you talked about yesterday, if the arms keep multiplying, that will affect our relations over the coming period. So the next three months are critical. We can't justify to the American people this racing. And in a race it is difficult to say you are even, and the attempt will be to keep an edge.

On emigration, they won't accept the numbers and they won't specify a delay time in national security cases. You might think about getting Javits, Jackson and Ribicoff in before you finalize. Termination in April '76 would be politically hard. Jackson is putting out that we are close to an agreement.

President: This morning he said it had broken down.

Kissinger: You must be on record with them on what you can do and what you can't do.

Gromyko said the Jews are great at raising a public relations crisis for publicity.



President: I couldn't see the relationship of the bulldozer story.

Kissinger: The Russians are crude boors -- but abstract art is banned and it was therefore moved off.

You must get it into their heads you are a tough guy. They are measuring you for a crisis.

But you should tell them if there is a race we must be first.

On Tanaka, anything you say they will leak. He is an unbelievable liar and probably will not get reelected.

President: Who will succeed him? Ohira or Fukuda?

Kissinger: I like Ohira, but either one is okay. Our relations have never been better. There is no contentious issue. He may raise proliferation -- you can say you are against it.

He will think you are trying to double cross him and he will reciprocate. On Siberia, tell him we are for it. On the PRC, tell him I am going at the end of the year, after you visit Japan.

President: Weren't they upset by our China move?

Kissinger: You can't tell them anything which doesn't leak. I don't think it will hurt.

Tanaka will be running on his relationship with you. I would review our relationship in Asia.

President: I will mention the trip. Is he in agreement on Korea?

Kissinger: Well, he knows about it.

You should see the Pakistani Foreign Minister. I am assuming you want to see these Foreign Ministers.

Khaddam will be down again and maybe you could see him for ten minutes.



