

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE WITHDRAWN 05/25/2004
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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDSDECLASSIFIED w/ portions exempted
E.O. 13526 (permanently) CSC 8.3DATE 10-11-2004 CIA LTR
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By dal NARA, Date 12/16/10

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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: Friday, January 17, 1975
 9:35 - 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: I think we have to sell a little more the purpose of your program. More conceptual.

The President: I am talking at 11:00 to the Cabinet; to Governors and Mayors at 2:00; and I'm having lunch with Sulzberger.

Now the Democrats are dragging their feet. They're thinking of barring the import restrictions. If they are going to be negative, I think we will be in good shape because we have a tough positive program.

Kissinger: Colby has laid out all the CIA
 [He read from the report.]

The President: Has Helms testified before Rockefeller?

Kissinger: Yes.

The President: How did he do?

Kissinger: He was very aggressive. But now every businessman, professor, and American company will be suspect abroad. The morale of the CIA must be terrible.



CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(3)
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I get the impression from Dobrynin that they are anxious to keep detente on course. I said I could send Robinson to Moscow to talk about what we could do at the summit to present to the Congress. I said, why couldn't we agree on a small MBFR cut for the summit? He said, why couldn't we cancel Trident and they would cancel something? I said not the Trident but to propose something else.

He said they fear the U.S. is too weak to do business with. Brezhnev is having a Party Congress this spring. If we have more setbacks by then it will really be bad. I said we were in better shape -- you now had your house in order, you were tough, and you now had a Vice President. I told him to keep up the press pressure for a while.

On the Middle East, they have given up on Egypt. They now are worried about Syria. When I think what we could do if Israel would cooperate . . . Maybe we need a letter to Brezhnev on the Middle East.

All in all, it was a very encouraging talk. He said their decision to open up Siberia was a major one.

On Allon, I told him they had to move -- there was no choice. His problem is how to present it in Israel so it does not look like surrender. He said it would help if we could reconfirm what we have already promised. I think we can we'll deliver what we promised by April 1, and let Schlesinger discuss MATMON-B, but in a dilatory way. I urge you to be a little warmer personally than I had recommended, but be very tough on substance. One has to wonder if modern democracies can survive. They can't make tough decisions without being demagogued to death -- unless something like the Soviet trade bill happens.

I am keeping Allon here so he can't be there on Sunday so we have a week without leaks.

General Scowcroft: [Harsch and Thimmesch articles.]

Kissinger: The new Congressmen were sweet as pie yesterday, not at all belligerent.



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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL Note

DESCRIPTION Brent Scowcroft's handwritten notes
from meeting with Ford, Kissinger

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