

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Members of the Cabinet (minus Secretary Kissinger)  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, March 12, 1975  
11:00 a. m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room  
The White House

The President: The Amnesty Commission needs help in processing the 16-17,000 applications now pending. I want all the Departments to provide whatever legal help they can.

The Vice President handled the Rule 22 matter in a brilliant manner. His role was misunderstood.

Vice President Rockefeller: The President said he did not wish to give guidance on Rule 22. [He described the history and the current attempts at changing.]

Secretary Butz: Let me give an agricultural rundown.

Food prices will be up slightly -- maybe .1%. They should level off or decrease in the last half of 1975.

Wheat is 400-500 million above last year.

We should have a record corn crop.

Soybean production should be up.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By lit, NARA, Date 1/20/00



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The President: Domestic Council organization. Sixteen different committees and a number of Cabinet groups. [Committee on Illegal Aliens/Committee on Privacy] We are studying which committees will be retained.

Russ Train had to make a crucial decision on Monday.

Russell Train: Car pollution standards are being met now through oxidation catalysts. They have been good -- they give better fuel economy, lower operating costs, and they work well. But they emit a sulfuric acid mist. This is not a problem now but would be in 2-4 or ten years. I decided to hold fast on the 1975 standards and extend them. I have gone too far for the auto industry in calling for sulfate solution by 1979 and not far enough for the health people, who want catalyst converters removed.

[Much discussion]

The President: Where are we in Indochina?

Secretary Schlesinger: We have two problems in Cambodia: (1) The critical problem of funding. They will run out of ammunition in April. If the funding is there, the situation is difficult but not without precedent in Southeast Asia. One can't assure the outcome in Southeast Asia, where the unexpected can always happen. The Government controls most of the cities and 75% of Phnom Penh. The problem is the Government can't keep its lines of communication open. Most critical is the Mekong River -- forcing us to fly in 1500 tons a day. Therefore, the airport is the sole line of communication to the capital.

The rebels are firing on the airport -- most dangerously from Tuol Leap. Last year Tuol Leap also fell.

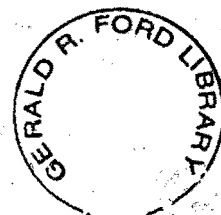
The President: Did they close the Mekong last year?

Secretary Schlesinger: No. That is new this year. But as the rains come, it will ease the situation.

We do not believe the city can be taken by storm if morale holds.

The President: How about Vietnam?

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Secretary Schlesinger: In Vietnam we have a chronic, not an acute, problem. Without the supplemental, they will draw down and will have to pull back. There are serious attacks now but the situation is basically a stalemate with some erosion in the countryside. We need to get help in now so in subsequent years Vietnam is not in the situation of Cambodia now.

The President: How about the diplomatic front?

Mr. Ingersoll: There are no negotiations now and don't expect under the present circumstances. We didn't see anything to be gained by Lon Nol stepping down in the abstract. He is no barrier. If they can get through the dry season, there is a chance for negotiations. There is some encouraging news from the Senate on aid. The House is split 3-3.

[Max described the House compromise.]

The internal political situation is amazingly stable although there have been some changes in the government. The capital is quiet -- no riots.

The President: Since I became President, there have been six negotiating efforts. There is no lack of initiative in being willing to negotiate for something like Laos which worked rather well. But we won't get negotiations if the Communists think they will win. If we can get a stalemate, we have a chance at negotiations.

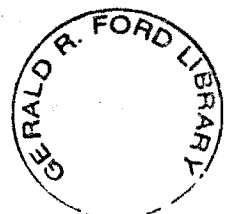
Secretary Schlesinger: The K C agents in Phnom Penh have been trying to stir riots and they have been unsuccessful. The Communists liquidate when they take over and the refugees all flee our way.

The President: It was interesting to see the returned Congressional delegation. Even Bella was moderate on economic aid, and McCloskey has changed substantially. Fenwick made an impassioned speech on protecting the innocent.

I have always felt strongly but do even more now that we can't let these people down.

[There was a farewell to Secretary Brennan]

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✓ Cabinet Mtg ✓

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P Amnesty Comm needs help in processing ~ 16-17,000 applications now pending. (If you could for all Dept provide whatever legal help they can)  
VP handled a Rule 22 matter in brilliant manner. His role was misunderstood

Rockefeller P said he did not wish to ~~take~~ give guidance on Rule 22  
(Described history of attempts at changing)

Butz (Agricultural random)  
Food prices will be up sharply - maybe 70% they should level off a decrease in last 1/2 of '75  
Wheat 400-500 mil above last yr.  
Should have a record corn crop.  
Soybean prod. should be up.

P Domestic Council orgn. 16 diff units & # of cabinet groups. (Center Illegal Aliens / Center Privacy)  
We are studying which units will be retained.

Russ Train had to make a crucial decision Monday

Train Car pollution standards are being met - now their operation catalysts. They have been good - better fuel economy, lower operating costs, work well. But they emit sulphuric acid mist. This not a prob now but would be in 2-4-20 yrs. I decided to hold fast on '75 standards & extend them. I have gone too far for a auto industry in calling for sulfate solution by 79 & not for an off for health people (who want catalyst conversion) (Much discussion)

P where are we in Submarine

Schlesinger We have a prob in Cambodia (1) Critical part of funding. They will run out of ammo in April. If funding is done, a sit is ok, but not w/o precedent in SE. On a real outcome outcome in



SEA, where a market can always happen.

The Govt controls most of the cities & 75% of pop. But  
is Govt can't help its own. Most critical is making  
forcing us to fly in 1500 times/day. :- Airport is sole  
AOC to a capital.

Rebels are firing over airport - most dangerously from  
Tomb heap. Last year Tomb heap ~~was~~ also full.

P Did they close banking last yr?

S No, it is now this year. But as a crisis came, it  
with close a bit.

We do not believe a city can be taken by storm if  
moral holds.

P How about VN.

S For VN we have a clear Chinese, not on a site, per  
also a supplemental, they will draw down & will have to  
back. There are serious attacks now but it is  
basically a stalemate w/ some erosion in the countryside.  
We need to help get help in now so in subsequent  
years VN not in a bit of Cambodia now.

P How about dip. fund

I to report now & admit that we have a present  
crisis. Don't see anything to be gained by household  
stopping down in an abstract. <sup>there is no price</sup> If they can get things  
in a dry season, there is a chance for report.

Some encouraging news from European and House  
split 3-3.

(Ways described House commercial)

Internal pol. set. is amazingly stable at the same  
change in govt. The capital is great - no vote

P Since I believe there have been 6 report efforts.

There is no lack of initiative in getting things  
to report for something, but heads when it worked



rather well. But we won't get report if - Carter  
think they will win. If we can state that, we have  
a chance at report.

Schles The KC agents in PP have been trying to strain  
into - they have been unsuccessful. The  
courts liquidate when they take over & a report  
all full on way

P interesting to see a returned crew delegation. E. E. E.  
Bella was not on record & the Colby has  
changed substantially. Finnish made impression  
the speak on protecting a movement.  
I have always felt strongly that the war was  
more that we want let these people down.  
(Forewell to Bremer)

