

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

WASHINGTON

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
His Excellency Salem S. Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, March 19, 1975

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: I am delighted to have you stop by before you go home.

Al-Sabah: I am very pleased you took the opportunity to see me before I leave. It will mean much to my country and the Amir and I will remember it forever.

President: Please convey my best wishes to the Amir.

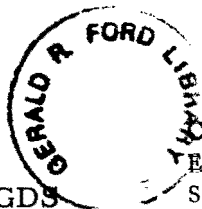
Al-Sabah: Thank you very much. I enjoyed my stay in your country for four years. As I join the Cabinet I will be the American expert!

I want to raise just one thing as a friend. I think sometimes there are some unfortunate things in our relations.

Maybe it is due to our frankness. We believe in frankness, but it has its bad effects. But we think it is best in the long term. For example, I told Secretary Kissinger he should go to Kuwait so those who are not your friends cannot use it against you. He said he would come and I hope he will. He is traveling in the Mideast, I know it is difficult and have told the Amir and the government, but still it might be misinterpreted.

President: I know he wants to go and will make a maximum effort. I don't know the odds, but the negotiations are at a crucial point. He is concentrating on that.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC. 1.5  
NSC MEMO, MAR 20, 1975, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Dev: CW 3/11/04  
BY: MA, MARRA, DATE: 5/12/04



SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(B)(3)  
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. To Det.

Al-Sabah: We wish him luck.

President: We feel we must find a common ground between Israel and Egypt and we are doing everything we can. If there is a proper moment, I want him to go. I hate to interrupt his concentration, but I do want him to go.

Al-Sabah: We understand. We have a vociferous parliament. I was shouted down the first time I spoke there. So Secretary Kissinger's visit would have a very beneficial effect. We agree with you and Secretary Kissinger going into the Middle East with open minds trying to help. We hope you can do something on the Syrian front as well. There are good signs between Iran and Iraq too. All this is helpful in the Gulf.

President: What is your interpretation of the Iran-Iraq agreement? Did it surprise you?

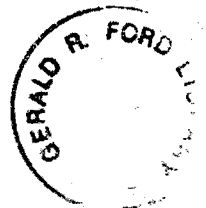
Al-Sabah: Yes. In the long run it may not be good for us. It's like the wolf and the lamb. They still have their eyes on us. With the Kurds problem solved, they may turn their eyes to the south. But it is good to solve the border problem between them. I notice they attacked the requirement that the Kurds have the option to be repatriated. So it is a little distressing over the long run.

President: Is Soviet influence in Iraq strong?

Al-Sabah: I think so, because they have an agreement. But I think the U.S. is starting to improve relations with Iraq and that is a good sign -- that they want to balance their relations.

President: Please give my regards to the Amir. Is your replacement here?

Al-Sabah: That is a problem. My family is staying here until school is out. So, not before June. But that is the only reason, not because I will not be replaced.



P/K Kwantia Ambassador

19 Mar 75 ✓

P Delighted to have you stop by before you  
go home

A Very pleased you took a opportunity to  
see me before I leave. It will mean  
much to my country & I arrived with  
warmest wishes

V Please convey my best wishes to Amin

A Thank you very much. I enjoyed my  
stay in your country for 4 yrs. as I find  
a cabinet deal will be a US export.  
Just one thing as a friend. I think  
sometimes there are some chaotic things  
in our relations.

Everyone said to some fearfulness but  
believe in progress but it has its bad  
effects. but we think it best in long term.  
For example, I told K he should go to Kuwait  
so that whoever your friends can use  
it against you. We said he would come  
& I hope so. He traveling in NE, I know  
it day & have told Amin & get, but still  
it might be misinterpreted.

P I know he wants to go & will make a major  
effort. I don't know odds, but a major role  
at a crucial point. He concentrating on that

A we work with him here.

P we feel we must find a common ground.  
but I & E & we doing everything we can.  
If there is a paper movement I must  
bring to go. I hate to interrupt his  
concentration but I don't want him to go.

A we understand. We have a newspaper

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 2.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/03, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, state review 3/11/04

BY DA

DATE

5/13/04

Parliament. I was shouted down & I tried to  
speak there. So K visit would have very  
beneficial effect. Was agreed w/ you & K  
going into a MEAS / open minds trying to  
help. Hope you can do something on Syrian  
front as well. Good night but I can't say  
to all this helpful in Gulf.

P What your interpretation of I-I agreement.  
Did it surprise you?

A Yes. In long run it may not be good for  
us - like wolf & lamb. They still  
have eyes on us. W/K needs to hold their  
own line to south. But it forced  
to solve border prob but then I notice they  
attacked - Kurds right after agreement  
is it a little disturbing in long run.

P So I see influence in Iraq - strong

A I think so because they have agreement.  
But I think it starts to they start  
w/ I req & that's good sign - that they  
want to balance their relation.

P I have a very regard to Omani. Beyond  
agreement here.

A That's a prob. My family staying here  
with school etc. So, not before June.  
But that's a odd reason, not believe I will  
not be replaced.

