

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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**BY dee NARA DATE 8/25/08**

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

**PARTICIPANTS:** President Ford  
Secretary Kissinger  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy  
Assistant to the President

**DATE AND TIME:** Wednesday, May 7, 1975  
9:45 a.m.

**PLACE:** The Oval Office

Kissinger: Colby distributes the NID to five committees every day.

President: That is unusual. When I was Vice President, they wouldn't even leave it with me.

Kissinger: More people see it in Congress than in the Executive.

President: What can we do?

Scowcroft: Downgrade the NID and substitute something else.

Kissinger: I testified yesterday. We are going to get a hard time on the Nixon-Thieu letters. They want to hold hearings.

President: They aren't going to get the letters. It will go away because the people aren't interested.

Kissinger: We had a cable from the French saying Israel was frighteningly inflexible. They now are insisting on step-by-step but won't make the concessions to make it work. Javits said he hears US-Israeli relations are improving. I said it was not so -- the relations weren't bad, there was a certain loss of confidence.

The Committee didn't balk when I outlined the '67 frontiers as one option.



President: I think we would look bad if after the reassessment we kept the status quo and went back to step-by-step. I think we should start getting our ducks in line for the comprehensive approach.

Kissinger: Eli Wiesel - a good friend of Israel -- wants to interview Sadat and write an article saying Sadat really wants peace. That would be helpful.

Nahum Goldman wants to organize a rich Jewish group as a counter-weight to the Presidents organization. If it doesn't embarrass you politically The group would organize itself and then come to see me. You wouldn't have to get involved.

\* \* \*

President: Would the Wiesel article get into the Jewish publications?

Kissinger: He won't affect Israeli politics, but American Jews could not say he is biased.

President: Would it get into the Jewish weeklies?

Kissinger: Sure. I have been telling these people antisemitism in this country is inevitable and the existence of Israel is at stake.

President: I asked for the Barbara Walters transcript. Thanks for the comments about me. It was a good series.

Kissinger: Egypt wants three American ships to go through the Suez Canal -- and no other warships. The Israelis will scream, but I think you should.

President: I think it will show our new flexibility to maneuver.

Kissinger: Yes, but Israel doesn't want that.

You have to tell Whitlam there is a security problem in the world and it will affect the Australians before it affects us. They can't kick us around for 10 years and expect us to jump when they get into trouble.

Also the issue of nuclear free zone and nuclear ship visits may come up. I would lay it out for them.

I am going to Missouri. The Governor has asked for breakfast.



President: He is a very attractive guy. You should see him.

Kissinger: I was going to discuss just food, but I think I will broaden it to include international economic policy, raw materials, energy.

On Diego Garcia, there are a lot -- include Richardson -- who think we should offer arms control negotiations as a condition for going ahead with Diego Garcia. I think that is a bad idea. We would get into an endless debate on what are bases, etc. At a minimum, I think we should hold off until negotiations on Diego.

President: I agree. It would sink Diego.

Kissinger: I would hit Wilson hard. Ask him to prepare Israel for flexibility. Ask him what the outlines of a comprehensive proposal would be.

President: Would he support us?

Kissinger: Callaghan would. I think you can get wide international support for a comprehensive settlement.

With Giscard, be cool.

President: Could I say I am disappointed?

Kissinger: Tell him the best way to meet is for him to take a plane to Brussels.

President: Can I talk affirmatively -- that it would help U. S. - French and NATO relations if he came to Brussels?



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