

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald Ford  
Ali Hamdi Al Gammal, Chief Editor of Ahram  
Mohsen Mohammad, Chief Editor of Gumhurriyya  
Moussa Sabri, Chief Editor of Akhbar  
Abdel Sitar El Tawil, Chief Editor of Rose El Yossef  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, June 2, 1975  
6:45 p.m.

PLACE: Schloss Klessheim  
Salzburg, Austria



The President: I am sorry to keep you waiting. I played a little golf this afternoon. How do you want to proceed?

Question: What is your image of President Sadat before your meeting with him and after?

The President: Secretary Kissinger has told me many times after his many meetings how he thought Sadat is a statesman in the real sense of the word -- forceful and sincere in his desire to make a meaningful peace. My first meeting with him gave me the same feeling. He is strong, articulate, and has a deep understanding of the problems of the area. The more I got to know him, the more I was convinced of these qualities. He is the type of man I could establish a great rapport with.

Question: How do you assess the chances for peace, from this meeting?

The President: This was a good chance to assess our policies and where we ought to go. President Sadat has a deep appreciation of all the factors which must be considered in our policy decisions. I don't want to say we made a lot or a little progress, until I have had my further consultations, but the information and views he expressed have certainly been very useful for me in our effort to reach a final reassessment.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

~~TOP SECRET~~ XGDS (3)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, state review 3/9/04  
BY: JAA, NARA, DATE 5/17/04

Question: What about bilateral relations?

The President: They are very good, and I believe they have been strengthened.

Question: On the questions of economic and financial aid, what did you discuss?

The President: The President gave me an understanding of Egypt's economic problems. I have recommended \$250 million this year, plus PL-480. That is committed. I am interested in the status of Egypt's economy because I must recommend a specific foreign aid bill for next year. I want to be helpful but we have nothing specific yet. President Sadat's information was very helpful for me in understanding Egypt's needs.

Question: How do you assess this Israeli move [of thinning-out forces near the Canal]?

The President: It is a useful symbolic action. Some would have urged them to do more but it is a useful symbol to show flexibility.

Question: Until now the United States has given Israel maximum support in peace and war. Should Israel not act as an ally to help you keep your new Arab friends?

The President: We hope as we try to move ahead, to avoid stagnation, that Israel would try to work with all the forces in the area. I am sure that Israel knows that stagnation and stalemate are not in the interest of peace. So they should show the same interest as others in working to reach a formula leading to meaningful progress in the Middle East. I don't want to be specific -- that is for them. All of the countries, I believe, understand the need for progress. A stalemate could ignite a conflict.

Question: With your schedule, will you visit Egypt?

The President: I hope so, but we have a heavy schedule of events coming up -- CSCE, SALT, a visit to China. No date was really set yesterday, but these events are currently on the schedule. I would like to go to Egypt and see it firsthand. I have never been to the Middle East. It would be beneficial to see first hand the problems and the people. Knowing the welcome that President Nixon received, I would of course like a similar experience.



Question: You have had a domestic orientation . . . .

The President: I think a President must move both foreign and domestic policies forward. I was very occupied last month with the evacuation from Cambodia and Vietnam, and the Mayaguez. Also this trip is very important. Many domestic issues also are important and both must be dealt with.

Question: You have witnessed a move from estrangement to friendship in U.S. -Egyptian relations. How do you assess it?

The President: Congress welcomes the change, I think. Many Congressmen of both parties have visited Egypt and I think they came back with a favorable reaction to President Sadat and the Egyptian people. We should gain in understanding, and Egypt and the U.S. should broaden the relationship in the future.

Question: There are problems in this relationship. Isn't time moving faster than our plans to solve them?

The President: I am very cognizant of the need for movement -- perhaps it should even be accelerated. But I think we are in a position to keep moving as rapidly as necessary.

Question: In what way?

The President: The U.S. wants to work with Egypt and the other states for a solution of the age-old problem in that area. We recognize that four wars and the embargo can't be repeated -- it is too critical for the world. We do understand the situation -- we don't want the past repeated -- we will work with all the countries there for a solution.

Question: Will we have to wait long for peace?

The President: I hope not.

Question: How long will it be before a decision?

The President: I hate to set a time. Obviously not before I have had talks with Prime Minister Rabin. I am not setting a deadline.



Question: Will the U.S. Senate support you?

The President: If we come up with a good plan, I think the Senate will support me.

Question: What are your plans for 1976?

The President: I will be a candidate and I think a successful one. We have had problems domestically and internationally but I think we are coming up in both areas.

Question: You vetoed the farm bill and some other bills. Does that hurt?

The President: I think it is essential to be firm if you are right.



P/Egyptian Journalist  
2 June 76

P Long to help your society. I played little  
golf. How do you want to proceed.

Q About your range of contact before & after

P Kees told me many times after his many  
visits how he felt about a real statement -  
focused in his desire to make a meaningful  
plan. My first visit you were very friendly.  
Strongly interested, <sup>deep</sup> understanding of a host of  
years. We've kept a book here, some  
I got convinced of these qualities. <sup>They</sup> will  
not be. Great respect

Q How does the chance for peace from us?

A Not chance of success on policies - unless  
we ought to go. Solid base of appreciation  
good - factors which <sup>must</sup> be considered in  
some policy decisions. I don't want to say  
we made a lot or a little progress. His inputs  
very helpful

Q Relations?

P They are very good - strengthened

Q E can a personal aid - what did you learn

P Got understanding of E even parts I know  
250 million this year plus P-FAA that is  
control. I interested in status of E economy  
because I want to see more specific  
for aid bill for next year. What to be helpful  
but we not specific yet. Solid data was  
very helpful in understanding E needs

Q How you assess this I mean

P A useful symbol. Some would have argued  
that to decrease but a useful symbol to  
show flexibility.

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/9/04

BY                      NARA DATE 5/17/04

Q Tell me how US gives I more support in peace  
& war. Should I not act as an ally to help you  
keep your new Irish friends

P We hope we can try to move ahead, avoid stagnation  
that I would try to work w/ all forces I know I  
know stagnation not in interest of peace. A  
try should be interested or others in preparing  
meaningful program in UK. Don't want to be  
specific that is for them. All in Ireland  
concerned for prog. A workbook could include a  
conflict

Q w/ your schedule <sup>will you meet</sup>

A I hope so, but we have heavy sched - ESCO,  
SANT PRO, were really set up but they  
currently on sched. I would like to go to E + see  
1st round. Be briefest to see 1st hand & pass  
+ people. It would be welcome to see Ireland  
of course by a similar app.

\* A you have <sup>had</sup> a dramatic escalation. Definitely

P I think a P must mean both parties proceed.  
I know why every last month as/weeks for  
C + UK, very agreeable. Also this trip very important  
they discuss and I both must be dealt  
w/.

A you have interested more from development  
thinking in US-E relations. However as

P Very welcome & change I think. Very invited  
- I wish some back w/ forward within the great  
of people. Gaining understanding E + US should  
break - ultimately in future.

Q Don't time measuring faster than we plan  
to solve them

P I was copying out of need for movement - perhaps  
accelerated. But I think we are in position to keep  
moving as rapidly as necessary

Q What way

P US wants to work w/ E & other states for solution  
of general prob in that area. Know that if wars  
& tensions can't be kept - in critical for world.  
We do understand the prob - we don't want a

first reported - one each w/ all.

Q <sup>What</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>best</sup> <sup>way</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>go</sup> <sup>forward</sup>

P I hope not

Q How long, before decision

P I hope to set a time. Obviously not before I have  
had talks w/ Rabin. I not setting deadline

Q Will you make support you

P I have come up w/ a general plan, I think Smith  
will support me.

Q Plans for '6

P I think we can handle it & I think we are useful.  
We have had prob elsewhere & we've had  
to try & we are moving on in both

Q You intend to make other visits, don't you  
think

P I think it is essential to be firm if you are right

