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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3

MR 09-78: #24

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By dal NARA Date 10/13/10

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Gaston Thorn, Prime Minister and Minister
of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg
Adrien Meisch, Luxembourg Ambassador to
the U.S.
Pierre Wurth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Secretary General,
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, November 12, 1975
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

[The press entered to take photographs. There was small talk about the United Nations and Mr. Thorn's Presidency of the General Assembly.]

The President: Henry is on the way back from Pittsburgh.



Scowcroft: Yes, in time for luncheon for the Prime Minister.

Thorn: He was in the press and caused us more problems with respect to the European Community in his remarks about the "seminar" [the Economic Summit].

The President: Yes, we understand the problem it creates. We think Canadian participation would have helped in that regard.

Thorn: The press has asked what is the aim of my visit. My visit has no particular motive. I am not asking for money; I am not here to berate you -- I am here just as a friend. That doesn't happen often. But I would like to exchange views.

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SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

The President: Thank you. I am interested in your opinion. What is your appraisal of the UN action on Zionism?

Thorn: It was very unfortunate -- especially when countries like Greece, Turkey and Portugal leave us. They were with us on the postponement, but not on the final vote.

The President: It has caused an emotional reaction here, especially in the Congress. There is a continuous undercurrent of opposition to the UN which surfaces at times like this. They will calm down, but the danger is that they will cut the funds.

Thorn: I shouldn't criticize the Congress, but you don't compensate for one error by making another error. Our problem -- for both our countries -- is that we have bilateral relations and UN relations. We don't combine them and make the UN an element in our bilateral relations.

The President: That is a good point. We are hopeful that this incident will have no impact on the Sinai accord. Sadat handled these issues fairly quietly and did not arouse too much opposition. We will work to keep the Congress from cutting back here in retaliation. We plan to try to keep the process going.

Thorn: The next move is up to the Syrians, no?

The President: Yes. The renewal of UNDOF comes at the end of the month. It would be dangerous not to renew.

Thorn: The UN vote means trouble. It gives the PLO the means to say that Israel is a Jewish and Zionist State and therefore to try to expel it. The main idea was to get a vote on Zionism, not to expel it. It was shrewd.

The President: What do you think about Portugal?

Thorn: I really don't know. It is a military regime without the customary attributes of one.



The President: We are mildly encouraged by what is happening, but I agree it is incomprehensible that a military regime can't maintain discipline. We are giving them \$55 million. Is the European Community going to help?

Thorn: Yes indeed.

The President: It is important, since their economy is in very bad straits.

Thorn: I spoke to Coutinho last summer about moving to the left. He said, "Do you really think a military man can go to the Communists?" He said, "To make the revolution, we turned to the ranks. Now they are on the Council and it will take much time to get things under control."

The President: Now that the refugees are back, they should be an element of conservatism.

Thorn: Yes, though there is a danger of polarization in the country.

The President: I see Franco is now supposed to have pneumonia. It is amazing how he hangs on.

I though Juan Carlos handled the Sahara problem quite well. Do you like that problem in the UN?

Thorn: It has gone well so far, but Algeria is the question. I don't think they will agree to a Spanish-Moroccan deal. That is a problem.

The President: Juan Carlos certainly will have to move to the center, but we hope he doesn't do it so fast as to destabilize the whole situation.

Thorn: No. Otherwise, he would bring himself into question.

The President: How fast does he have to move, for the Europeans?

Thorn: The speed is not so important. Just so he shows he is moving would be enough.

The President: We hope he will move enough so the political negotiation with Europe can begin.

Thorn: Indeed, if he will just say "I will move very slowly," it will be enough.



The President: The whole southern Mediterranean is a problem. Italy is a problem; the Christian Democratic party has to reform itself. There isn't too much we can do.

Thorn: Yes. The problem in Italy is the Christian Democratic party has just been playing musical chairs with its leaders. There's been no new blood and the people are fed up.

Southern Europe is the soft underbelly. I am less worried about Yugoslavia than I was a couple of years ago.

The President: I met several Yugoslavs at the second level who I thought were strong and able to take over.

Let me say a bit about the changes I have made over the past week or so. The press hasn't been accurate.

I like free discussion, but it has to be without recrimination and backbiting. There had grown up a tension which I found difficult to work with, and I had to make some changes. Rumsfeld you know. He is a fine man. There may be State-Defense difficulties still, but within a framework which I hope will be comfortable to me. Bush is a fine man and I think will be confirmed. Congress forgets that CIA is all foreign-oriented, not internal. I had nothing personal against Colby. He was caught in a very difficult period.

Richardson gives us a man who broadens the domestic political spectrum here. So there is no real policy change.



Thorn: I know Rumsfeld and Richardson. We don't get excited about cabinet changes -- we are more used to them. I have read that this means you will be less hard against the Soviet Union, but I believe your description.

The President: I think, as a matter of fact, that Don may be tougher than Schlesinger. I hope, incidentally, that we can move MBFR through NATO. I think it is important to show movement there.

Thorn: I agree. How about SALT?

The President: There still are some problems remaining. There won't be anything by the end of the year, as we had early hoped. There are two troublesome issues, the Backfire and cruise missiles. [He described something of the complexities involved.]

We have solved most of the strategic missile issues; just these two are remaining, principally.

Thorn: Are SALT AND MBFR interdependent for you?

The President: No.

Thorn: May I say a few things about economics and protectionism. I think we all have to fight against protectionist moves from any source.

The President: I can assure you I am in favor of lowering trade barriers. The studies we have to undertake in steel, autos, etc., are mandated by law. No one should think I am in any way behind any protectionist moves. I am definitely against them, but I cannot stop these legal necessities. We have had a serious depression -- in autos, for example. This resulted in pressure from labor, etc., to demand protection. If the industry rebounds -- as I think it will -- I think the pressures will abate.

Thorn: We have problems on both sides of the Atlantic in this area. I just hope that to solve yours, you won't increase ours.



The President: I agree. What is your view of the economic situation?

Thorn: Frankly, not good. Recovery may not start until about the middle of next year. We are all trying to cut back government expenditures but that doesn't stimulate the economy.

The President: We too have had the problem of both inflation and recession. We think we have now bottomed out. [Discussed unemployment and inflation.]

Thorn: This is important with you facing a political year.

The President: Yes. It is interesting that here the polls show that inflation is the most important issue.

Thorn: It varies in Europe from country to country.

One other point. The issue is the European Community and your meeting in Paris. I think privately that it's good you are meeting with the leaders of the big countries. But speaking for the European Community, it is a problem.

There is a tendency among some of the bigger members to want to set up a sort of directorate to work with the United States. They may try to put you in the middle of it, by saying that the U.S. insists on that structure for consultation with the European Community. I just wanted to warn you of that possibility.

The President: Thank you very much. I understand your point completely.



(Miss) G. Smith

✓ P/T Horn

12 Nov 75

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MR # 09-78, #28
Date Dec 3/11/10; CIA-111816/10
By dal NARA, Date 10/13/10

(Press in)
Small talk about UN

(Press out)

P Henry is on way back from Paris.

S Yes, in time for lunch for Paul

T He was in a pub & carried on some part of
report to a EC in his remarks about a
"Assassination"

P Yes, we understand a pub it exists. We
think Comulcan participation would have
helped in that regard.

T Paul has asked what Comulcan for
A my visit is important. I not asking for
money, not to berate you - just as a
friend. That doesn't happen often.

P What is your appraisal of a UN action on
terrorism

T Very important - esp. when countries like
G, T + part heard us. But they will or/so
on a postscript, but not on a final vote.

Y It has caused an explosive reaction here,
esp in a large way with. There is
an intense undercurrent of opposition
to UN which separates at times between
They will calm down, but a danger
is they will split apart.

T I should not criticize a Cong, but you don't
compensate for a line by another.
Been not - both our countries - is we
have bilateral relations + UN relations. We
don't combine them + make UN an element



in our bilateral relations.

P That is a good point. We hoped this meeting would have no impact on Sinai accord. Sadat handled these issues so fairly quietly & didn't arouse too much opposition. We will work to keep a Corgy from cutting back here in retaliation. We plan to try to keep a process going.

T The next move is up to Egyptians, is it?

P Yes. The annual comes at end of month. It would be dangerous not to measure.

T The ^{UN} vote means much. It gives a P.H.D. a means to say I is a Jewish & a 2 ~~in~~ in state & to try to expel it. The main idea was to get a vote in Geneva, not to expel. It was shared.

P What do you think about Post?

T I really don't know. It is a mil. regime w/o a controlling attributes of one.

P We are vitally encouraged by what is happening, but I agree it is micro. That a mil regime emit into chryso. We are giving 55 mil. Is the EC going to help?

T Yes indeed.

P It is important, since a economy is very bad.

T Exposure to Contra last summer about money to be left. He said do you really think a mil. man can go to a court? He said to make a revolution we turned to a bank. Now they are on a Council & it will take much



time to get things under control.

P Now that a ~~refugee~~ one back, they should be an element of conservation.

T Yes, that there is a danger of polarization in a country.

P I see Franco now supposed to have pneumonia. It says he's been hospitalized.

I that Juan Carlos handled a Sahara problem quite well. Do you like that job in a UN

T It has gone well so far but Algeria is a question. I don't think they will agree to a Sp-Moroccan deal. That is a job.

P Carlos certainly will have to move to a center, but we hope not too fast as to destabilize

T No. Otherwise he would bring himself into question.

P How fast does he have to move for a E.M.S.

T The speed is not so important. Just so he shows he is moving will be enough.

P We hope he will move enough to a pol. negotiat/E.M.S. can begin.

T Indeed, if he will just say I will move very slowly, it will be enough.

P The whole southern med is a problem. Italy is a problem, the C.D. has to reform itself. There isn't ^{too} much we can do.

T Yes. The fact in Italy is the C.D. has just been playing musical chairs w/ its leaders - no new blood - & the people are fed up.



T We have jobs on both sides of Atlantic in this area. I just hope that to solve yours you won't increase ours.

P ~~Other~~ Payer. What is your view of economic

T Frankly, not good. Recovery may ^{not} start ^{until} about middle next year. We are all trying to cut back govt ~~expend~~ expenditures, but that doesn't stimulate.

P We too have prob of inflation + recession. We think we have now bottomed out.

(Dismissed unemployment rates, inflation)

T This is important w/ you facing a political year.

P Yes. It is interesting that in here a poll shows that inflation most important

T It varies in ECs from country to country.

One other point. The issue is a EC and your

meeting in Paris. I think primarily it's you and meeting w/ c leaders of a big countries. But

speaking for a EC it is a prob. There is a tendency among some of the bigger members

to want to set up a sort of directorate to work w/ c U.S. They may try to put you

in a middle of it by saying a US

insists on that structure for consultation w/ c E.C. I just wanted to warn you of that possibility.

P Thank you very much. I understood your point completely.



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