**MEMORANDUM** 

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Secretary Henry A. Kissinger

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant

to the President

DATE AND TIME:

Wednesday, November 19, 1975

9:15 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

<u>Kissinger:</u> Our relations with Japan are now in a class by themselves -- unbelievably good.

The President: Here is a Japanese magazine of the Emperor's visit. [He showed it to Secretary Kissinger.]

<u>Kissinger:</u> In the records, the major achievement will be the tightening of the bonds of the West.

David Brinkley said you are in good shape. The shakeup didn't hurt you at all. Reston agrees. You will come out fine in New York.

I'm having Murphy tell Asad he has to hold out til '77. If he wants a negotiation on the Golan, we will do so. If he wants to work with the PLO, we can't do it before 1977, but we can send a private person to talk to them. If they want a negotiation in conjunction with Jordan, though, we would support it. I haven't told Israel that, though I think they will be upset.

I don't like the boycott statement. Can't we lower the profile? The Jews are going all-out to get us embroiled with the Arabs. We also have a problem on the arms. Our studies show they don't need any additional equipment.

Scowcroft: This will make it difficult in handling the issue.

The President: Can't we let the Congress know what the situation is?

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Scowcroft: It will certainly leak.

<u>Kissinger:</u> But I have to testify in support of it, and you recommended it

The President: Yes.

<u>Kissinger:</u> On the China trip: We are planning only one substantive meeting per day. There isn't that much to say.

The President: I want to be well prepared.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Brent, tell Solomon that the meeting with Mao should not be on the first day. Tell him to suggest it subtlely with the Chinese.

<u>President:</u> Could you get the records of my meeting with Chou En-lai in 1972, with Hale Boggs?

Scowcroft: We'll get it.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We will have by tomorrow a book of all with Mao conversations and selected other ones.

Tell Solomon to try not to have Mao meeting on the 1st day. I would not banter with him. He is very subtle and says nothing without a purpose.

The President: Should I, since they are pro-Schlesinger, talk about Rumsfeld's testimony?

<u>Kissinger:</u> No, I don't think we should be defensive about it. I would say there is no Kissinger policy, no Schlesinger policy -- only a Ford policy.

The President: I agree.

Kissinger: I would be very tough on that. You are totally in charge.

The President: You are right.

<u>Kissinger:</u> We need an NSC meeting on the DPQ issue. On nuclear weapons in Europe. Schlesinger wanted to take them out. This should be in the NSC system.

## SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

Only heavy bombers can have cruise missiles over 600 kilometers in range. We could agree to counting as MIRV any bomber with ALCMs over 600 kilometers. Also SLCM's. Then we reduce the aggregates to 2300 -- that's equal to 100 Backfire. Then get a letter saying they will only deploy 1200 MIRVs. They plan to build 400 Backfire, so this would get them 300 free but they couldn't put longrange cruise missiles on it.

The President: Going from 2400 to 2300 is good from a perception point of view.

Kissinger: We could probably get them to buy it if we let the Backfire go.

You are meeting Wilson today on the 200-mile limit. Gravel has done a really good paper on it. I know you have a tough political problem.

The President: It's a tough political problem either way. I will listen today. I would rather have no bill down here. Where is it?

<u>Scowcroft</u>: The SFRC reportedly negatively 7 - 6. It is going to Senate Armed Services, which will probably report negatively.

<u>Kissinger</u>: Church's assassination report will be approved tomorrow. It will be a disaster.

The President: Can't we get our friends to set it straight?

Scowcroft: Only Hyland has seen it thus far.

<u>Kissinger:</u> The trend is against us in Angola. I think we should appeal for a cease-fire to the OA U and the Soviet Union. Colby is blackmailing us.

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