

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Scowcroft sk

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

BY dal NARA DATE 4/29/08

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, December 9, 1975

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House



Kissinger: The reaction in Egypt to the UN veto [of the resolution condemning Israeli retaliation in Lebanon] is bad. I have come to the conclusion that we shouldn't take any more from Israel. Did you see the Rabin interview in Newsweek? They are out for us -- even if you caved.

The President: That wouldn't help.

Kissinger: I think they want a showdown next year when we are tied up. I told Crown Prince Hassan we would move decisively in '77.

The President: Absolutely.....

Kissinger: And they should keep their shirts on until then. A war would actually help you in the election if you moved decisively. But it would hurt the country -- it would take us five years to dig ourselves out.

The President: When we come to the January debate.....

Kissinger: We have to be careful there. We don't want to let the Syrians take the lead. We should let the Arabs know we won't go beyond 242 and 338 and they have a choice between waiting until we are ready to move massively or accept a stalemate. We've got to be brutal to both sides.

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CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
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I would tell Hassan that you are determined to move to peace after the election. If you move before that, you may win paper victories but there will be no movement. But there is no doubt the Israelis are the basic cause of the trouble.

The President: How did you make out with Dobrynin?

Kissinger: He is upset. Brezhnev changed his schedule and showed your letter to the Politburo. He said it is another case of my being over-ruled. I said absolutely not, that you would have had me go, but the leaks would have been counter productive to an agreement. You should tell him we are ready to make further proposals on SALT, and that Angola is not at all helpful.

On SALT, I get the impression the Pentagon is back at the old stand now. [Describes the JCS Memo, etc.].

Now another cheery bit. The bureaucracy is dragging their feet on Angola. [Described the problem].

The President: Let's have an NSC Meeting.

Scowcroft: I can crack the whip, but I wanted you to know the recalcitrance.

Kissinger: Why don't you crack the whip and promise an NSC meeting in 10 days or two weeks?

[There is discussion of the success of the China trip, the Teng lunch for Bush, and the replacement for Bush -- not Scott, or Scranton].

Connally is maneuvering in Rome with some Italian businessmen. He also said there was someone in Rome reporting directly to the White House.

The President: I don't know a thing about it.

[There is more discussion about what it might be about].

Kissinger: Colby has published that U. S. equipment was used in Timor.

The President: Did the Israelis use U. S. equipment in their Lebanon raid?



Scowcroft: They don't have any other equipment.

Kissinger: I am giving a press conference on SALT compliance. I will slam Zumwalt a bit, but we have a good story on compliance and I want to set the record straight.

The President: Mel Laird called Cheney to say that you agreed with him that there had been violations.

Kissinger: That is not at all so. I said the most troublesome was the radar if they had continued.

The President: Mel is covering his ass.

Scowcroft: He is upset that you said flat out there were no violations.
[Short discussion of Portugal and Spain].

The President: Betty and I were terribly embarrassed at the gift situation.



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