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MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

**PARTICIPANTS:** President Ford Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant the the President for NSC

DATE AND TIME:

Tuesday, January 6, 1976 9:15 a.m.

PLACE:

**Oval Office** 

President: I watched the three-hour foreign policy NBC program last night. The only thing I really objected to was their treatment of the Cyprus crisis. They ignored the Greek attempt to assassinate Makarios.

Kissinger: I didn't watch it. I thought your St. Louis speech to the American Farm Bureau Federation] came over very well.

President: I thought the whole day went well.

Kissinger: I think you are doing well. The press is trying to spook you. You are not in trouble, I think, if the people around here can be supportive. Ed Williams said Levi is considering an indictment against Helms.

Scowcroft: I think it is lousy. I don't think Congress will appoint a Prosecutor and if they do, it will counce back on the Democrats.

Kissinger: Dobrynin said the Pravda article on Angola meant nothing. If they have something to say to us they will say it. He was very cocky; now ( intervention means everything except their support of the MPLA.

It is pathetic the African answers to your letter. They want help but they don't see how they can trust us after the Senate vote. It was an outrageous thing for the Senate to do.

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The key is the OAU meeting. I will meet with the African Ambassadors. If we don't wrap it up before Congress comes back, I think all hell will break loose. After the meeting we should meet next week, perhaps have an NSC, to cooly decide what to do. If we get a good resolution we can decide -- but the press is playing it as another Vietnam.

<u>President</u>: I think there is a little better feeling now about it then two weeks ago, but it is still murky.

<u>Kissinger</u>: Most of the responses to your letter -- Sadat, Kenyatta, have been very good.

We will have a SALT NSC Thursday. Whatever the positions, there is an entirely different attitude. Don has basically changed the whole atmosphere. The discussions have been serious and workmanlike.

There are three basic options: (1) Deferral. I am worried that moratoriums are hard to end and I think we should legitimize cruise missiles. After the election the Democrats will go to the left of you. (2) Include Backfire. That's a good position but nonnegotiable. (3) A mixed package like you and I discussed weeks ago. [He described some of the elements.]

Dobrynin was afraid when I called him in that we would cancel the trip. If we were stronger, we probably should, but you have rightly said we shouldn't link grain and Angola, and we can't then link SALT with it.

President: I agree.

[Discussion of SALT options and President's support of mixed package.]

Kissinger: Brent says you did not raise the Israeli aid for FY '77.

President: [Described what happened.]

<u>Kissinger</u>: They will scream like hell. It is a purely political decision. They will do everything they can to beat you, whatever you do. Israel's behavior has been unbelievable. [He described what happened with the President's message about the four settlements.]

Israeli behavior has made PLO pressure inevitable by refusing movement in any other area. They are acting like common thugs. [Story about Dinitz not  $\frac{j}{h}$  is f

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knowing about the President's letter.] They talk about a Soviet-Syrian victory when we got an UNDOF extension for practically nothing. We could not in any event have prevented a Security Council resolution. I don't believe there was Soviet-Syrian collusion.

[He reads the Allon departure statement.] This is a god-damned country of 3 million. No one can talk to us this way.

<u>President</u>: And on the money. OMB wanted it at 750 million. I more than doubled that.

<u>Kissinger</u>: I think you have to tell Rabin that Nixon bom bed Hanoi in '72 and you will do what is right regardless. I don't think we can get through the next year without at least convening the Geneva Conference. I wanted to try to slide through the year but Israel wants to use it to wreck our relations with the Arabs.

President: You mentioned the Iranian oil. What is the problem?

Kissinger: The gain is not in money but in putting more oil on the market.

President: I will act on it right away.

Why do the Portuguese let the Cubans land in the Azores?

<u>Kissinger</u>: We have protested but they claim they have no legal right to stop them. I will go at them again.

My recommendation is we go down the line with the Israelis but then we start moving and contact.

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