

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador William Porter, US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, January 10, 1976
12:18 - 12:40 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: I didn't know you had spent so much time in the Middle East.

Amb. Porter: I grew up there. I started off there at 22.

The President: I always associated you with Vietnam and Asia.

Amb. Porter: One of your predecessors changed my life style. President Johnson ordered me out there with Cabot Lodge.

The President: How is your language?

Amb. Porter: Pretty good. You don't forget after you've spent 28 years in the area. When I started then, there was no Embassy in Saudi Arabia. It was part of the consular district of Baghdad.

[He discussed his travels.]

The President: Do you know Khalid and Fahd?

Amb. Porter: I have met them when I knew their father. I have not met -- the new Foreign Minister, who is a grandson. He is a very bright young man.



~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to Det.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY gk, NARA, DATE 6/4/04
Stat Review 3/11/04

It is amazing to see we now have over 20,000 Americans there. And no cultural shock. There is no night life, no drinking, etc. -- but still no problems.

The President: We don't have many military there, do we?

Amb. Porter: There are several missions of different types. They pay for everything. We have two problems. One is their reluctance to let Jews into the country. The other is the boycott. They say they are paying and they want to do business with whom they wish. They say they can't distinguish between Jews and Zionists.

They take the position they are sovereign too and they don't want to be pushed too hard.

The President: I think we can handle it within the Executive Branch but there are a lot of outside pressures and lawsuits, which are causing most of the problem.

Amb. Porter: We have influence with the Saudis and we can influence them, but we have to do it right.

The President: We are glad to have you there and I know you will do an outstanding job.

Amb. Porter: It will take some handholding but I know how to do it.

The President: Please tell them of my determination to keep the diplomacy moving to a settlement.



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*Hyland File
@ Sawmott file
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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINE
BY ljs, NARA, DATE 6/14/04
State Review 3/11/04

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✓ Pres / Amb Wm. Porter
12:18-12:40 pm, Sat, 1/10/76

P I don't know you had spent so much
time in - KNE

P I grew up there, started off there at 22.

P I always associate you w/ VN + Asia.

P One of your ~~public~~ ~~was~~ ~~changed~~ ~~my~~ ~~life~~
style. Johnson told or had me out w/
Crest Lodge

P How is your language.

P Pretty good. You don't forget after 28 yrs in
cave. When I started then there was no
embassy in S.A. It was part of a consular
district of Baghdad.

(Dismissed his trench)

P Do you know Kakhid + Fahd

P I ~~know them~~ I have met them when
I knew ~~to~~ their father. I have met with
now Fahd, who is a grandson. He is very
bright young man.

(Dismissed Kakhid; Fahd, etc)

Stomach to me we now have over 2000
Arms there. And no cultural shock. There is
no night life, no drinking, etc - but no
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P There are several missions of diff types. They
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we have 2 jobs. One is structure to let
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They say they paying + they want to do business
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distinguish bet Jews + Z. exists.
They take a position they are same too +
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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, state view 3/11/04

BY jam NARA DATE 6/4/04

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P We have influence w/ the families & we can influence them, but we have to do it right.

P We are glad to have you there & I know you will do an outstanding job.

P It will take some hard working but I know how to do it.

P Please give all of my determination to help moving ~~me~~ to a settlement.

