

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

**DECLASSIFIED**  
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.0

MR. 01-100, #41, at 22, 10/1/01

By dal NARA, Date 10/24/01

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

**PARTICIPANTS:** President Ford  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
James T. Lynn, Assistant to the President for  
Management and Budget, and Director, OMB

**DATE AND TIME:** Tuesday, March 31, 1976  
9:22 - 10:30 a.m.

**PLACE:** Oval Office

Rumsfeld: I think on the budget committees we should say this is a first step in the process and it reflects a desire on the part of the committees to have the U.S. remain strong.

Next, this Belgian gun. It was decided about two years ago in terms of standardization -- purchasing the best weapon at the best price. There is no linkage with the F-16 and the Leopard tank. It is the right decision and small peanuts. I hear someone bitched yesterday at the staff meeting.

President: I did because the U.S. gun was about half the price of the Belgian.

Rumsfeld: There is no doubt, though, about the cost effectiveness.

President: You just go up and convince Governor Loughie that you are right.

Rumsfeld: We have been.

President: If we lose Maine, it's your fault. [Laughs]

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Rumsfeld: We use the term "unilateral" on the PNE fact sheet. Better use a different term.

[Short discussion of the PNE statement.]

Kissinger: What about positioning the carrier task force off Lebanon?

President: Isn't one already there?

Scowcroft: That is an LPH. The attack carrier is at Split. It can't move before Saturday.

Kissinger: The situation in Lebanon will heat up over the weekend. If we can send a signal the Soviets would pick up, it would be very good.

[Discussion and decision to wait until we get a first report from Dean Brown.]

Rumsfeld: I want to warn you about Rickover's testimony this week. You reappointed him last fall.

The shipbuilding paper. [describes]

[Long discussion]

President: I want to look it over.

Lynn and Scowcroft: There shouldn't be a formal submission before the Navy study is complete.

President: How is Lebanon going?

Kissinger: Brown is about there. He will tell Jumblatt that if they don't cooperate, we will ensure they won't win. The Syrians can assure that. If we can get a ceasefire, we could let some Syrians in covertly.

President: That wouldn't let the Syrians clean out the PLO.

Kissinger: If there is no ceasefire, if we could work with the Syrians to guarantee they'd be out in three weeks....

[More discussion]

[ Some discussion of the UN vote on South Africa resolution. It was agreed that the minimum position would be abstention with a strong statement. ]

Scowcroft: Max [Friedersdorf] just called about a Byrd Amendment rider they are trying in the House to put on the Defense Appropriations bill. I told him we had a formal position supporting repeal. He should reiterate that but not beat the drum for it.

P/K/R ✓

7:22 - 10:30

31 Mar 76

R I think our budget constraints we should say this is a 1<sup>st</sup> step in a process & it reflects a desire on our part for cost to have a US remain strong next this Belgian gun. It was decided about 2 yrs ago in terms of standardization - purchasing a best value at best price. There is no linkage w/ F-16 & Chopper tanks. It is a right decision & several points. I hear someone bitched yesterday at staff meeting.

P I did because a US gun was about 1/2 that of Belgium.

R There is no doubt tho about a cost effectiveness.

P You just go up and remind Gene Hughes you are right.

R We have been

P If you had trained it's your fault (Lungus)

\* R We use a term "unreliable" on PNE first chart. Better use diff term.

(Short discussion of PNE statement)

R Asked about positioning a carrier took place off Lebanon.

P Don't one already there

S That is an LPH. The attack carrier is at SpH. Can't move before Sat.

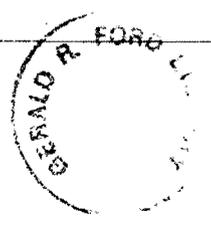
K The sit. in Lebanon will limit our work. If we can send a signal & Sars would pick up it would be very good.

(Discussion & decision to wait til we get a 1<sup>st</sup> report from Oman Base)

R I want to warn you about Reikens returning this week. You reappointed him last fall. Shepherding paper - (Describes)

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AUTHORITY on MR 01-100, #44  
BY Wh NLF, DATE 6/19/04



See how heavy study going.  
P statement on Lebanon from K.

(Heavy discussion) (Pres said he wanted to  
look it over, by you + I argued against a  
formal submission before a Wony study  
is complete)

P How is Lebanon going

K Brown is about there. He will tell Jumblett that  
if they don't ~~let~~ ~~keep~~, we will ensure they won't  
win. The Syrians can assume that. If we can get  
a CF, we could let some Syrians in country.

P That wouldn't let a Syrian leave out a PhD

K If no CF, if we could work w/ a Syrian & guarantee  
them out in 3 weeks.

(More discussion)

Some discussion of UN vote on S. African  
apartheid. Agreed that minor position  
would be abstention w/ a strong statement

S Max just called about a Byrd amendment  
which they are trying in a House to put  
on Def copying bill. I told him  
we had a formal position supporting repeal.  
He should illustrate that but not break a chain  
of it.

