

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS AT CABINET MEETING

Wednesday - April 14, 1976

Kissinger: There are basically three interlocking issues in Lebanon: the relationship of the Christian and Moslem community; the relationship between moderates and radicals; and the role of outside powers. All these are important factors in the current dispute.

The first point is at issue because the religious division is no longer 50-50. The Moslems are insisting that the political power reflect reality. The radicals want to go further and make Lebanon a secular state -- Jumblatt is one of these.

The outside power line up is like this:

- Syria supports the Christians and the moderates,
- Iraq and Libya support the radicals,
- Egypt supports the radicals against Syria.
- The Soviet Union supports Syria but also the radicals.
- Israel is opposed to Syrian intervention so objectively is supporting the PLO.
- We have been supporting the Syrian political solution but not the military solution.

[Describes the political situation.]

What could happen? It could blow up and Syria might intervene. Then Israel would intervene and we would have a Middle East war and a probable oil embargo. The best outcome would be a political settlement, but with a weakened PLO. This could leave an opening for a comprehensive settlement next year.



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Scranton: If any of the people attacking Secretary Kissinger in the paper today were in charge, we would not be in the condition we are nor have the opportunities we have through a masterful handling of this incredibly complex situation by Secretary Kissinger.

[Some President and Kissinger discussions of the threat of Syrian intervention in March and the predictions by King Hussein.]

President: What is the meaning of the West Bank election?

Kissinger: That should be a warning to the Israelis that we need to move.

One other word. I am going to Africa next week. I will. . . .



HAK Comments at
Cabinet Mtg

14 Apr 76

H There are basically 3 interlocking issues in balance:
relation of Christian + Muslim entity; moderate +
radical; role of outside powers. All three are
important factors in a current dispute.

The 1st point is that since because a religious division
is no longer 50-50, ~~the~~ The Muslims are insisting
that a political process reflect the reality.

The radicals want to go further + make Lebanon a
secular state. JMWL to avoid these

Outside power lineup

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- Iraq, Libya support radicals

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- SU supports Syria but also radicals

- I opposed to Syrian intervention so objectively
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not a military solution.

(Describes P.R. sit)

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entirely. Then I would + we would have a
war. Possible oil embargo.

The best outcome would be a political settlement,
w/ a weakened PLO. This could leave a way
for a comprehensive settlement next year.

Description of any of a people attacking K in a paper today
was in charge, we would not be in a position
and we have a opportunity we have then
a masterful handling of this incredibly complex
sit. by K

(Some of P & K discussions of a threat of Syrian
intervention in house + predictions by Hoover)

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, state.gov/cso/12/04

BY slk NARA DATE 7/4/04



What is meaning of W-Bank ^{election} ~~election~~
& should be a warning to I that we need to
move.

On other side, I going to office next
week, I will

