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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
 Dimitrios Bitsios, Foreign Minister of Greece  
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
 Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
 Menelaos Alexandrakis, Greek Ambassador  
 Jack Kubisch, US Ambassador to Greece

DATE & TIME: Thursday - April 15, 1976  
 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

[There was small talk about the flying time to Greece, while the press was present. Then the press left.]

President: Please extend to the Prime Minister my best wishes. I enjoyed my two sessions with him and the chance to exchange views. Also President Tsatsos.

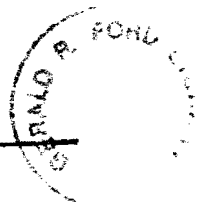
Henry and I have been working hard on this and I am pleased that things are going well. When will we sign -- in May?

Bitsios: It could be. There is no real reason it could not take place before the Prime Minister's visit.

I think we have settled far more than the bases. We have tried to see the problems in the area in a broader way. The same way relations with you have been linked with problems in the area. So it is important that our people know how the Americans see the resolution of the problems. It has been too long and we can't have things like that. It is difficult to understand why the Turks don't understand that -- also they will get a settlement they couldn't have had about two years ago.

DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
 NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Decisions 3/12/04  
 BY            NARA DATE 11/16/04

CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft  
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 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(B)(3)  
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~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

President: How are the prospects for the next Cyprus meeting?

Bitsios: Given Turkey's goodwill, they can meet in May.

Kissinger: The Greek proposal, while not the ultimate in generosity, gets things started. It is essential now to get a Turkish proposal. We will press thr Turks on it.

President: This is a very difficult situation for us. We have close and long standing ties with Greece and I do with Greek-Americans. We will do everything we can to facilitate a solution.

Bitsios: Thank you very much. We appreciate that. Then there is the Aegean. This is now the principle of the Law of the Sea. At least we have agreed to submit it to the ICJ, but now we are discussing with Turkey the terms of the submission.

President: How long would that take?

Bitsios: A couple of years. Karamanlis saw Demirel in Brussels and they agreed on that. But the are going slowly.

Kissinger: I think the Turks think they will lose the case.

President: It would be tragic if the Aegean dispute degenerated into something more serious. We will do what we can with a firm hand to prevent the development of something more serious.

We are looking forward to the Prime Minister's visit in June. He will have a great welcome -- the Greek community is one of the most active and enthusiastic in the U.S.

Kissinger: And that's saying something.

Bitsios: The Greek-Americans want the closest of relations between Greece and the U.S. But they were deeply shocked by what happened in Cyprus.

President: We were all deeply disturbed and it has been very harmful to the NATO alliance.

[Discussion of Greek Parliament.]

President: What is Papandreou?

Bitsios: He calls himself a socialist but he is extreme. He is very skillful but unscrupulous.

Kissinger: He has an American wife who is very anti-American. He is like the Berkeley rioters of the 60s.

Bitsios: Fortunately we have three communist parties -- an interior party an exterior party and a nationalist one.

Have you ever visited Greece?

President: No. I unfortunately have not. But I would really like to.

Bitsios: We hope you will have the opportunity to do so.

[Discussion of the Greek Islands]

President: We really look forward to both you and the Prime Minister coming back. I am very pleased that you and Henry have reached agreement. It is very important to keep things moving.

Kissinger: We will have a ruckus in Ankara, but it is a good agreement and it had to be done. I told the President you gave a very generous toast.

President: You can be very helpful with the Greek-Americans.

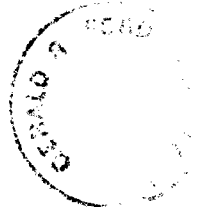
Bitsios: I have explained to many groups. I had a good talk with Brademas. And Iakovos, who said he would issue a message. To AHELP.

President: AHEPA is a very influential group. If you can get their assistance it would be very helpful.

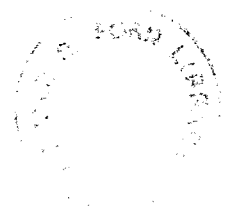
Bitsios: The Greek-Americans were upset by what the Turkish Foreign Minister said when he went home -- that what they had done here had nothing to do with Cyprus.

Kissinger: We'll have to let things cool in Ankara a week but then we'll get a counterproposal from the Turks.

President: Is Clerides finished?



Bitsios: He was destroyed by his Turkish counterpart who leaked to the press.



P/ Bitsios

15 Apr 74

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Small table about how flying time to be  
P/ out

P Please stand to P/ my best wishes. I enjoyed my  
2 sessions w/ him & a chance to exchange views.  
Also P/ T notes.

~~John~~ K + I have been working hard on this  
I pleased things are going well. When will we see <sup>in May?</sup> a sign?

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take place before a P/ visit.

I think we have settled for more than a loose  
we have tried to see a prob in a area in a broader  
context. Some way relations w/ you have been  
broken w/ prob in a area. So it may be that  
some people know how a Amos has a resolution  
of a prob. It has been too long & we can't  
have things like that. Diff to understand why Turks  
don't understand that - certainly will get a  
settlement they could not dream about 2 yrs  
ago

P How are prospects for a next Cyprus visit?

B Am T goodwill, <sup>they</sup> will visit in May.

K The G proposal, which not a estimate in general  
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P This is a very big job for us. We have also  
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B Thank you very much. We appreciate that.  
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NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Dep. review 3/12/04

BY                     , NARA, DATE 7/1/04



w/TC terms of submission

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(Discussion of Greek Parliament)

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(Discussion of Greek Islands)

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