

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Vice President Rockefeller
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
George Bush, Director, Central Intelligence Agency
William P. Clements, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Defense
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, June 16, 1976
12:40 - 1:45 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: They [Meloy and Waring] may have been killed. They have three bodies but it will be an hour or so before they are identified.

[The President looks at the map of Beirut.]

They were on their way to a visit with Sarkis to talk about the Arab force.

President: Who gave us the word?

Kissinger/Bush: It was a member of the ICRC.

President: Have we gotten any messages back?

Kissinger: Not yet. We sent messages to the Soviets, British, France, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Jordan that he had been kidnapped and how seriously we take it.

Our estimate is it was done by a rejectionist group, with the motivation perhaps to provoke a violent American reaction which would unify all the Arabs.

CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 (B) (3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp to Det.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/16/76, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES,
BY DA . NARA. DATE 7/27/04
State De v. e.s 3/12/04

We have Dean Brown standing by to go there, because there isn't a cool head there now.

Clements: But we have to remember that even the organized units are out of control and every SOB has a machine gun.

Kissinger: That reinforces my point.

President: What is your appraisal, Nelson?

Vice President: There is a domestic side. Reagan could jump on this and demand that you take strong action.

Internationally, if this could be used as a vehicle to get the Egyptians behind the Syrians to clean up the mess... Strong Arab action could get the President off the hook.

Kissinger: I don't think there is anything we can do to get Egypt to give Syria a free hand, and to suggest it may be counterproductive.

Vice President: Ike went in in '58 and it was successful.

President: What assets do we have there?

Clements: [Described the task forces.] But I think intervention would be a mistake.

[Discussion of the possible methods of evacuation -- by aircraft, by sea, or by road to Damascus -- and the pros and cons of evacuation.]

President: Regardless of the political consequences, there are several actions to consider:

- (1) Have a civilian ship available.
- (2) Ease our ships in closer. I recognize the concern.

Vice President: The President has to show he is doing something. If we could get the Egyptians to take strong action...

Kissinger: We should issue a statement, saying that our best information is this was done by a small group of terrorists. This is a disgusting, reprehensible act. You should say: I call on all parties to condemn this act and to cooperate to bring the perpetrators to justice.



16 June 76

K They may have been killed. He will be
at home or so before a vehicle is identified
(Plucks at map)

They were on their way to visit about of Sarkis about
a Arab force

P who good as a word

K/B It was a member of a I.C.C.C.

P How are you getting any maps back?

K not yet. One sent maps to SC, Be, Fi, Syria, E,
Lebanon, SA, Jordan that he had been kidnapped & how serious
we have take it.

One estimate is it was a nationalist group
w/ motivation perhaps to provoke next US
election which would unify Arabs.

We have seen Brown standing by because there
isn't a cool brother now.

C But we have to remember some of organized
units are out of control & very SOB has a machine
gun.

K That reminds my joint

VP What game appraisal, Nelson

VP There is a domestic side. Reagan would going on
this & demand strong action.

Justly if this could be used as vehicle to get a
E behind Syria to show eye mess. Strong
Arab action could get a lot of back.

K I don't think there is anything we can do to
get E to give Syria a full hand to suggest it may
be counterproductive.

VP I've want in in 5K & it was successful.

P What results do we have there.

C (Received task force) But I think intervention would be



a mistake.

(Discussion of methods of evacuation - airport,
by sea, by road to Damascus)

(Discussion of pros & cons of evac)

P Regardless of political consequences, there are
several actions to consider.

(1) Have a land ship available

(2) Ease our ships in closer, I mean your
concern.

VP The Pres has to show he is doing something
If we could get a Egyptian to take strong action

Our best info is this done by a small
group of terrorists.

This is a disgusting, reprehensible act.
I call on all parties to condemn this
act and to cooperate to bring a
perpetrators to justice.

Dean Brown
Strong statement

Call families

