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MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Nixon

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of Austria Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, Foreign Minister

DATE AND TIME:

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Tuesday, June 11, 1974 9:55 a.m.

PLACE:

Schloss Klessheim Salzburg, Austria

The President: I knew several Austrian Ambassadors. Who was the last big one?

Chancellor Kreisky: Gruber.

The President: As you know, we are going to five countries in the Middle East now. They will be brief stops everywhere except in Egypt where we will stay two days -- not that we place it above the others, which are one-day stops. After that, after about five days we will leave for Moscow. It would be helpful to get your impression. You were there after Egyptian-Israeli disengagement.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: I had a long talk with Sadat. When I met with Nasser I tried to get him to understand he could have better relations with Social - Democratic parties in Europe if he would have relations with the Israeli labor party. Nasser had asked me what to do about the European Social - Democratic parties. Sadat is, I think -- he understands things better than Nasser. He is ready to play a decisive role. He has

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an idea to establish better relations with the European socialist parties. He wants the European way to socialism. He wants aid from Europe. He doesn't want to replace his friends.

I was there only on a fact-finding mission. We had good talks. There is now a Egyptian high-level mission in Vienna.

I think Sadat wants a little peace but he is realistic enough to know it will take time. He knew it would be tough to get a disengagement with Syria. He thinks Asad has more internal troubles than he has. He is impressed that this is the first time Israel has accepted and kept a treaty. I know he hoped I would tell this to the Israeli Government. He knows that their technology and civilization are highly developed in Israel and it shouldn't be destroyed. (This was in a very confidential talk.) He said Egypt had lost \$2.5 million a day in war preparations, and this can't continue. He thought he should step down, but others say it can't happen. He told me that Egypt is not an Arab state -- but they are surrounded by Arab states and must be a part of the Arab world.

He has excellent relations with Boumediene. An Algerian Minister told me that Nasser had to be replaced as moralistic leader in the Arab world. He will be replaced by Sadat or someone else in a short time and forgotten.

Qaddafi's position with the Arabs is weak. Sadat, Boumediene -everyone dislikes him. Sadat has the 100% support of Boumediene. Boumediene has an excellent staff around him.

All the Arabs are in favor of a Palestinian state, because then things will go in a different direction. The first question is its relationship to Jordan. Then there are so many Palestinian groups who don't feel represented by the PLO that maybe there should be a Palestinian Congress to decide what the Palestinians want. Arafat is weak. I know underground movements; they can't cooperate because each wants a power position. If they select a leader, it would not be a strong man. They corrected Arafat in front of me, and so on. I was disappointed.

I talked to Ghanim [Head of the Arab Socialist Union in Egypt] and he said we are building up Arafat. This is an illusion. Kosygin said the Soviet Union had a good impression of him. But I doubt he will be the leader of the Palestinians. There is no leader -- not in the camps nor in Jordan. I think their latest declaration is hopeful, because they say they won't be classified as refugees. This is good, because Israel is wrong

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to say the first question is whether there are Palestinians. If they want to be Palestinians, let them. The Palestinians have a strong position not only morally but inside some governments. Specially in Syria.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: Dr. Elias -- he was probably in the meeting with you.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky:</u> In all countries but Egypt and Algeria there are big Palestinian groups.

The President: Libya is a Palestinian state.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan. It is unjust for Israel to ask Lebanon to do something against the Palestinians -- they can't act against themselves.

The President: Israel wanted Syria to do it, but they can't.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: In Syria they can, but they can't say it. In Lebanon, they can't do it.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: I told Israel they would have to give back Kuneitra and he must send back 20-40,000 people to their village. At that time Israel wasn't ready to return Kuneitra. Rabin was the only one who pursued with me the Kuneitra issue. Sadat will tell you that without progress in the Palestinian case it will be difficult to go forward.

Sadat is willing to go forward, but he had to wait a bit for Syria. Now he must wait for the Palestinians.

I asked Kosygin about the Palestinians. He said "we have to support them but it is an intricate question to go further. We will support them in Geneva but we are cautious about the size, and so on, or how and where it should be conducted. We are ready to guarantee Israel."

I asked Arafat what was their goal. He said their goal is a bireligious state; Israel is to disappear, the Jews who entered after 1948 must leave, and then all will live together peacefully. They all thought a bi-religious state of Palestine is the solution, but a Palestinian state on the West Bank would be a settlement. I am no specialist, but without discussing such a solution, I think it is impossible to get the Palestinians to join a conference. Israel is not ready to discuss it with the Palestinians at the moment.

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Secretary Kissinger: Nor to the Jordanians.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: I asked Asad what Palestine means. He told me "Southern Syria." So that would be a problem.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: The Syrians have their own group which is not part of the PLO.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: I have been told by the Jordanian Palestinians that there are two leading ideas in Jordan. Hussein wants the Palestinians to live in Jordan; Prince Hassan wants it as a buffer -- believing that Jordan can exist only if there is tension between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Sadat is a great statesman. All the support the democratic world can give him it should. He's the best chance in a half century in the Arab world. He is a cultivated, western man. After him, I wonder if there will be a chance. We can't make him too much a man of the West or we will destroy him.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, my German friends build up their ideas based on private information from the Soviet Union. There is no such thing as private information, but only what the Soviet Union wants to get out. Bahr is stupid to think otherwise. It is stupid to think that we weaken Brezhnev if we don't support his policy. The Soviets use this as a ploy. In the Soviet Union, the government means the security apparatus and the economy. There is no public opinion. The administration is handled by Kosygin; foreign policy, security, and politics are handled by Brezhnev. Podgorny is necessary because there must be a third man. He has no special charter.

Brezhnev wants CSCE to conclude at the summit. I think he needs it and I don't know why we refuse.

The President: You want it, even without substance?

Chancellor Kreisky: They will make some concessions.

The President: What good is it for the West?

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: The substance we have already. There is no war in Europe. The Soviets are not interested in puppet regimes. They are

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worried about the young men in the western governments because they don't know what they think. The terms of trade are better for the Soviet Union, and they have the Chinese -- it is a problem. I think nothing will happen in Yugoslavia. We need visible concessions at CSCE, it is clear. There are possibilities, but the fact we are willing to go to such a meeting would give the world a sense of security.

The President: You mean the non-Communist world needs a sense of security.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: Not military, but psychological. A general feeling. The Third Basket.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: The whole thing is massive hypocrisy. Being able to buy the New York Times in Moscow won't change the Soviet system.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: I am not an appeaser. But detente creates liberalization, not vice versa. The cold war climate creates a fortress internal climate there but detente creates a liberal climate. They can't allow in the long run more liberation in the satellites than in the Soviet Union. If it is possible to give credit to the situation we already have and to get concessions on economic cooperation and get promises on freer exchange of people and tourists, and concessions -- smaller ones -- on disarmament problems, and if we can agree on a follow-up to the Conference . . We should want a follow-up so the situation doesn't get frozen. We should want a follow-up on contacts. Bonn is obsessed with papers. We should have five to six papers. We can't avoid going to a Conference in the long run, and if we do not do it now, we will go without any concessions.

We are all waiting for your visit to Moscow.

<u>The President</u>: As you know, there are some leaders in the West who are against such a Conference.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: Giscard has a new look. Schmidt is now the leader, but Brandt still has a big influence. Wilson . . .

The President: Wilson wasn't for it at Pompidou's funeral.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: Wilson should go along. Luns will oppose; he is in the business to be opposed.

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<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: Our problem is how to manage it with Europe. If we support it, they will oppose it.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: I think a summit with five to six papers to sign would be good.

The President: Why does the Soviet Union want it?

Chancellor Kreisky: They want to confirm the status quo in Europe.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: Also they started this idea ten years ago and don't have much to show for it.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: China is a problem. Also they see detente as a realistic sistuation. Coexistence they started with, now detente. Co-existence is too much a Soviet idea, but detente is good.

<u>The President:</u> Do the Europeans like it? They used to, but when we push it they oppose it.

<u>Chancellor Kreisky</u>: We have weak governments in Europe. Wilson and Giscard are strong persons but the government is weak. Italy is weak.

Minister Kirchschlaeger: Because the European governments are weak, the Soviet Union doesn't want to offer much.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: Most of these ideas are eyewash. The Finns now have an idea for Basket III. There is little significance.

Chancellor Kreisky: There could be a paper on the Middle East.

<u>Secretary Kissinger</u>: It's risky. We have to keep the Arabs fluid. And the Soviet Union wants it all reduced to writing; the Arabs don't.

<u>The President:</u> Let me spend just a moment on how we see the Middle East. The Soviets, and perhaps the Syrians somewhat, insist on Geneva going forward to discuss everything -- the Palestinians, Jerusalem, and further disengagement. They want to put it all on the table. That is not our position. We are not trying to push the Soviets out, but the Arabs welcome us because we can give something the Soviets can't. The Soviets can give only war; we can give -- through Dr. Kissinger's diplomacy -- some

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peaceful progress. The Arabs realize that it's to their interest to have the Soviets out and work through only the U.S. The reason they want us is they don't fear us.

Our Jewish community is constantly stirred up and wants to return to the old days -- with the U.S. being the only friend of Israel. In October we came in with a massive airlift, over the objections of our entire military. We called an alert. We did both of these things because we couldn't allow the Soviet Union to move in and dominate the area. But now there are Jews who resent our building friendship and aid to the Arabs. This is short-sighted. Israel can't win in the long run with the old policy. The danger in the long run is the Soviet Union. Only the U.S. can hold them out. The Arabs will be told we won't back down if the Soviet Union tries to move in. But Israel must realize that time is not on their side.

Where do we go from here? We will reassure them, and so on, but the main point is to keep Asad and Sadat especially from pushing too fast -- going to Geneva in a massive approach. It would blow up. We need to do it piece by piece. We will play a decisive role because of our special relation with Israel. We have some of the confidence of the Arabs; we are for Israel and support them. Israel's enemies must become our friends and we must talk to the Soviet Union. We will move step by step, and bring the Soviet Union in only to keep them quiet and where they can help. We won't bite the Palestinian bullet now. Israel, Jordan and probably Saudi Arabia don't want it yet. Who are the Palestinians? We must move slowly and not push it into an open forum. The same with Jerusalem. Patient diplomacy, with some movement, is in the interest of all. Israel must realize they can't freeze it in the old way.

By the way, we are in touch with the Palestinians.

Let me say one final word on the Soviet Union. There is growing concern in the American right. They think we are inferior and that we gave away too much in SALT I, which we did not. We are roughly equal and it doesn't matter -- 70 million killed on each side is no policy. So we are generally equal. There will be some bilateral agreements at this summit. Congress is arguing there should be no trade without emigration. I have gotten them to move from 400 a year to 35,000; to push them will only close the doors. We will work on it. We will give them other fish to fry, and hope.

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In Europe, we think a move on MBFR is important, but we can't move unilaterally.

Overhanging it all is China. We have a dialogue with them -- not to push one against the other but because we are a Pacific power.

We will push for MBFR, and for CSCE to get some substance in it. On SALT we are having a difficult time because the weaponry we are talking about is at the heart of the security of each side. The military on both sides are hard line, but Brezhnev and I will get them in line if we work something out.

One note on Bahr and encouraging moderate groups. I was reading the State cables during Roosevelt's last days. They said Stalin was reasonable, if not for the hard liners back in Moscow. So we go in with our eyes open, not to embarrass them. We are not trying to push the Soviet Union out -- it is happening but we are not trying. The goal in the Middle East is working step-by-step on a bilateral basis. Kissinger's approach is correct -- not the Rogers plan. We support Geneva, but the timing is very important. We can't throw these things into Geneva now.

[The meeting ended.]

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