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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

 PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
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
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, December 10, 1974 7:30 a.m. - Breakfast Meeting
PLACE: The Residence The White House

Kissinger: Elliot Richardson said yes [on going to London as Ambassador].

The President: The <u>Washington Post</u> article supporting Turkish aid was good. The UN vote on Korea was a squeaker.

Kissinger: The Allon meeting was very important. He didn't have authority to go farther. But after the meeting he said:"Put the offer forward and see what happens." We can't close the deal before the Brezhnev visit to Cairo, but we can give Sadat assurances.

The President: I talked to several Congressmen about aid.

<u>Kissinger</u>: We can't go with an authorization bill of 4.5 under these circumstances.

The President: We can say there is no aid bill at all if they want help.

Kissinger: I will hit the French at NATO on CSCE.

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The President: How will the other react?

<u>Kissinger</u>: Very negatively. I think any French President wants the Gaullists and Communists on his side.

I told Dobrynin we would take out "ballistic" [from the Vladivostok aidememoire], but still argue it in Geneva. I think we should take out "after 1985" for the follow-on negotiation.

The President: I like that. I read there is a resolution in the Senate to send us back to renegotiate it. Let's have Scott or someone add a rider that if we can't get it, Congress will add the money needed.

<u>Kissinger</u>: Kennedy will fight Jackson on it. There was a meeting of the Trilateral Commission. George Ball attacked me for inviting a confrontation on oil. I really took him on. But most of the people there say "Don't let another war happen." If there is, we will be blamed.

The President: I thought Allon was more forthcoming than I expected.

<u>Kissinger</u>: He is a good man. Rabin went to see the Shah. He said the Shah was very pessimistic. He said only you and I are working to save the West. The Shah is fearful for the West.

I will see Haig in Brussels.

The President: Give him my best.

How is the aid bill?

<u>Kissinger</u>: Sorry I couldn't testify. I hope it doesn't hurt. Fraser is coming around.

I talked to Kennedy. I think he is trying to become a statesman by 1980.

The President: Then he must not want a Democrat to win in 1976.

Kissinger: That is right. He did the same in 1972.

Jackson is a total demagogue.



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The President: We have a meeting on the Defense Budget Saturday.

Kissinger: I would keep it high.

The President: High on weapons and R&D, and keep personnel down. One issue is Thailand.

Kissinger: My strong view is you shouldn't do it this next year. I know DOD wants to close three bases. I think there will be a big offensive in 1976. By the time you go to China you can figure how much you want to pay for having no offensive in Vietnam in 1976.

The President: Saxbe will go to India.

Kissinger: Maybe we can announce both him and Elliott next week.

The President: Ed Levi has accepted.

Kissinger: It is a distinguished Cabinet appointment. I want to go to Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico, between Christmas and New Year's.

<u>The President:</u> Rummy had a small dinner last night. I was impressed with Jim Wilson -- maybe for Domestic Council.

<u>Kissinger:</u> I think this trouble has been a good, chastening experience for Nelson.

<u>The President</u>: At the Leadership meeting on Wednesday, we will talk about the Trade Bill. I want to show my interest.

How about Korologos?

Kissinger: He is reluctant.

The President: I will talk with him.

Kissinger: When is PL-480?

Scowcroft: Wednesday.

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<u>Kissinger</u>: My interest is in the highest possible level for foreign policy. I don't care that much about Bangladesh.

The President: I want the highest possible figure consistent with the size of our crop and the budget.

<u>Kissinger</u>: Israel wants badly to have \$200 million in PL-480. I think if we can make some increase, we are okay.

On Greece and Turkey, we may have to move slowly. Although if we get a good vote in the House, we may want to press the Turks. I am worried about Makarios. He may want to invite chaos and then use it as an excuse to seek outside intervention.

I am leery of being the fall guy. We are in pretty good shape now. There is more reason now about not driving Turkey out of NATO.

So there probably won't be a spectacular result from my meetings.

The President: We will keep you posted on the vote.

<u>Kissinger:</u> I would like to tell the Greeks that we won't move without a written statement of what he will accept on Cyprus.

Cyprus is dying down. Karamanlis played it well.

I am afraid Makarios will pocket any concessions and ask for more.

The best amendment would be no deadline but general injunction for progress.

The President: I think the change in the Post will have a big impact on the Congress.

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