

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: His Majesty Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman
 Qays Abd al-Munim Zawawi, Minister of
 State for Foreign Affairs
 Sayyid Tarik, Royal Advisor
 President Gerald R. Ford
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
 and Assistant to the President for
 National Security Affairs
 Lt. General Brent Scowcroft

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, January 9, 1975
 2:30 p.m. (45 minutes)

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: We are very pleased to have you here. And we are very proud of our long relationship, which was established in 1833. During Andrew Jackson's presidency. I wonder how someone from the hills of Kentucky could be so farsighted.

I understand we have the Peace Corps in your country. What do they do?

Sultan Qaboos: I think they are out in the field mostly.

Foreign Minister: They are working mostly in agriculture.

The President: We are revising the Peace Corps program. Now it includes a lot of retired people with real skills. Previously there were a lot of people who specialized in political matters. We have stopped most of that.

I would appreciate your views on South Yemen and the insurgency it's supporting.

Sultan Qaboos: They have been supporting revolutionaries and terrorists. They have two schools where they train about 500 young people whom they will later infiltrate not only into Oman but elsewhere. East Germany supports them also.

SECRET/XGDS

~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (S)
 CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
 NSC MEMO, MARINA, STATE DEPT. CHANNELS, State Review 3/10/04
 BY: [signature] MRA, DATE 5/11/04



The President: How about the PRC?

Sultan Qaboos: Up to two years ago they were there.

Secretary Kissinger: Did the Soviets come in there, after the PRC left?

Sultan Qaboos: Yes. They were there together for a time. I think they were in conflict.

Once we establish control in an area, we try to help the people -- opening schools, hospitals. It is a very primitive area.

In the areas close to the border we still have a lot of trouble. We have lost some soldiers because in guerrilla warfare 20 men can overcome many more. But soon we will be able to say we control the area. But for a long time to come we will have some kind of border troubles.

The President: What is the size of South Yemen?

Sultan Qaboos: They have about 750,000 people; we have about 1,000,000.

The President: Is that the oil area?

Sultan Qaboos: No. That is in the central area.

Secretary Kissinger: They are a nasty bunch.

The President: We support your efforts and want to cooperate. We weren't able to supply some things recently -- like TOW -- which is in short supply. But we want to help those who help themselves.

Sultan Qaboos: We appreciate that. We want to help my people, educate them, strengthen the economy, and make use of our resources -- we know our oil will disappear one day -- like our agriculture, minerals, fisheries.

We have no intention to get involved with others' internal affairs and therefore we don't like interference with ours.

The President: How long will you stay?

Sultan Qaboos: Until Saturday.



The President: I hope you can come back.

Sultan Qaboos: I would like to come and spend two or three weeks here. When is the best time?

The President: April through October.

Secretary Kissinger: It's a little hot in the summer.

The President: But you are used to that. It is drier there -- very humid here.

Are you exploring for more oil?

Sultan Qaboos: Yes. Offshore and in the Gulf of Hormuz.

The President: Any production yet?

Foreign Minister: We're almost ready.

Secretary Kissinger: You have the Iranian troops helping you. How are they doing?

Sultan Qaboos: All right. But it takes time to learn to fight guerrillas.

The President: I guess you can't use aircraft in this type of war.

Sultan Qaboos: Yes, we do use them. We use them to spot, move people around, and sometimes strike.

[There was a light discussion of aircraft. There was a consensus that old planes are better]

The President: Is there anything you need?

Sultan Qaboos: We tried to get sniper scopes but we were told we couldn't have them.

General Scowcroft: We will take care of that.

The President: Are there any other areas in which we could help?

Sultan Qaboos: We can't think of any offhand, but we appreciate any help from our friends.



The President: We are pleased to hear that the British won't pull out.

Sultan Qaboos: We are pleased at that too. We feared they might.



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 9, 1975
The President's Office
2:40 p.m.

SUBJECT: Sultan Qaboos' Call on the President

PARTICIPANTS: His Majesty Qaboos bin Sa'id
Sayyid Tarik bin Taimur al Sa'id, Personal Advisor
on Diplomatic Affairs and Senior Ambassador
Qais Abdul-Munim Al-Zawawi, Minister of State for
Foreign Affairs
Ahmed Macki, Ambassador of Oman

The President
The Secretary of State
Lt. Gen. Scowcroft
Ambassador Wolle

Responding to the President's expression of welcome and his inquiry about the flight to Washington, His Majesty said the long trip from London earlier in the day had been comfortable and that the sunny weather here was an improvement on the cloudy, nasty conditions in London. The President stated that we are proud of our long, long association with Oman going back to 1833, the time of President Andrew Jackson, who indeed was farsighted to establish such a relationship. He added that we think this long and good foundation of our relations can be expanded upon.

The President asked about the American Peace Corps volunteers in Oman. Sultan Qaboos responded that the volunteers are in such fields as social work, health and agriculture, and that they are doing a good job in their scattered locations around the country. The President expressed pleasure in hearing of their contributions and noted that while the US has had good luck generally with the Peace Corps, there are bound to be exceptions. He spoke of an effort in recent years to upgrade their skills. Originally, some volunteers had felt too strongly that they had primarily a social mission or objective, but over the past ten or twelve years most of these had been eliminated in favor of individuals with specific skills to offer. Also, the Peace Corps has recruited a number of older persons, including retired craftsmen with skills in agriculture and con-

NEA:WDWolle:cej

(Drafting Office and Officer)

FORM DS-1254
2-65

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State-Dept. Guidelines

By WJ, NARA, Date 5/10/04

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GDS



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-2-

struction, for example. Such volunteers wished to contribute their talents to mankind for a few years before final retirement, and their presence has added sound balance to the program.

The President said he would appreciate the Sultan's assessment of the situation in Dhofar, particularly the efforts of the South Yemen Government against Oman. Sultan Qaboos responded that the South Yemenis indeed do support the Dhofar terrorists, which they call revolutionaries, to the extent that recently they have been shelling Omani positions with guns and mortars from their side of the border. They also provide weapons and training to the terrorists. Some 500 young Omanis have been taken across the border into South Yemen for Marxist indoctrination and education in two schools, one bearing the name "Lenin School." The aim is to prepare them for subsequent infiltration and trouble-making in Dhofar. In doing all this, the South Yemenis have Soviet support and advisors, some Cuban advisors, and some support from East Germany and North Korea. Asked by the President if Red China has been involved, the Sultan replied that they were at one stage but have not been helping for the past two years or so. Chinese support tailed off about the time the Soviet support began.

Sultan Qaboos said that his government is trying to put an end to the Dhofar terrorism and guerrilla warfare, and that there has been much progress. He said Oman's Iranian friends are assisting, for which he is very grateful. He stated that most of the territory that had been under terrorist influence has been more or less pacified. Once Omani Government rule is established in a given area, he tries to give his people their due by setting up schools and clinics, making water available and providing job and farming opportunities. The Sultan said he is convinced that the affected persons now realize clearly that the Government really wants to help them. He added that both his own forces and the Iranian troops have suffered some losses in the past month in the course of a campaign against the terrorists, who are situated in difficult terrain and hiding in caves and forests. However, he hoped soon to be able to say that his forces are in control of the entire area. Even then, the situation would remain problematic for a long time to come if the South Yemenis continued on their present course.

The Secretary remarked that the Aden regime is certainly a very cantankerous group, one that has also been giving the Saudis a good deal of trouble.

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The President stated that the US supports Oman's efforts to regain its territory and control it. He realized there had been one or two Omani requests to which, for our own supply reasons, we had been unable to accede - in particular, a request for the TOW missile. Nonetheless, it remains our policy to do what we can to help nations that help themselves, nations such as Oman which have the aim and ambition of improving the lot of their people. The Sultan assured the President that Oman's aim is to build itself up, provide greater educational opportunities, strengthen its own economy and make full use of its resources. One day Oman's oil would disappear, and his people in the meantime must develop their agriculture, fisheries, minerals and so forth. He said he certainly has no intention of getting involved in other peoples' internal affairs, and he does not like it when others interfere in Oman. The President commented on how fortunate we all would be if only this were a universal attitude.

Asked if Oman is trying to increase its oil output, the Sultan referred to the two new offshore concessions now being explored by American and French companies. Both are about to start drilling, and there is great hope for gas as well as oil. The President inquired whether the present oil producing area is located in the regions of guerrilla warfare, and was told that all known oil areas are further to the north and east.

On learning that the Sultan plans to remain in the US only three days, the President encouraged him to come again to have a good look at the country, including the midwestern heartland as well as our more publicized vacation areas such as Florida and California. When the Sultan said he would like to do this sometime, probably crossing the Atlantic by sea, and asked what the best season would be, the President suggested anytime from May to October. While not recommending Washington itself in mid-summer, he noted that His Majesty probably is accustomed to much more heat, if not humidity, than Washington offers even then.

The President commented that the Shah has been travelling this week to Jordan and Egypt. The Secretary, noting that he was aware of the Sultan's acquaintance with the Shah, said the Iranian ruler is indeed an impressive person and stated that we have invited him to visit the US in May.

The Secretary asked how the Iranian troops are doing in Dhofar. Responding, the Sultan said they are doing well, though in this kind of a guerrilla encounter there is no substitute for experience, in knowing where to look and what to do. Asked by the

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-4-

President whether the South Yemenis helping the guerrilla are true Yemenis or are recruited elsewhere, the Sultan described them as mainly Yemeni but with some elements from the Gulf. They also have a local South Yemeni militia that is recruited when they are in trouble.

The President asked if aircraft are useful in the kind of fighting in progress in Dhofar. Sultan Qaboos said that helicopters prove particularly helpful and add mobility to the efforts of his forces. Also, British fixed-wing Strikemaster aircraft are used for low-level attacks when conditions and the terrain permit. The President commented on how useful the older, slower planes had been in the Korean War for low-level missions. The Secretary said that once in Korea the North Koreans sent an old-fashioned biplane over Seoul and the South Koreans simply couldn't hit it.

Sultan Qaboos presented one request. He said Oman has sought to buy some American-made telescopic sights for rifles in its possession but has been "turned down." He hoped these might be made available. The President asked General Scowcroft to look into the matter, and told the Sultan he was glad the matter had been brought to our attention. He commented that this type of sniper-scope device has become far more sophisticated in recent years, and recalled seeing work being done on such equipment by an Army research team at the University of Michigan about twelve years ago. General Scowcroft added that some modern sight-vision devices actually make use of starlight.

The President asked if there is anything by way of technicians, in any special areas, in which the US might be helpful. The Sultan responded that he could not say there is just now, but perhaps in the future. When the President stated that we feel strongly that if we can we want to be helpful, Sultan Qaboos said Oman is a young country in the midst of a self-development effort, and needs all the assistance it can get.

The President declared that he was pleased to note the British are not going to pull out their support from Oman. In agreeing, the Sultan remarked that at one stage he had been afraid the British might leave. The President said that the US has some very serious problems together with the British in helping enable them to finance some of their important external activities.

On departing, Sultan Qaboos thanked the President very much for the time taken to receive him.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S 7500798
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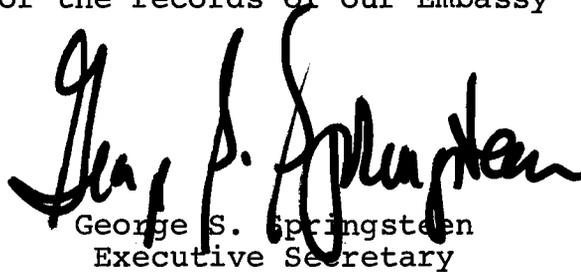
January 14, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Memorandum of Conversation Between the
President and Sultan Qaboos of Oman

Transmitted herewith is a Memorandum of
Conversation between the President and His Majesty
Sultan Qaboos of Oman on January 9 for review
and approval. Once the memo has been approved,
the Department would appreciate receiving a copy
for its records and for the records of our Embassy
in Muscat.


George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Memorandum of Conversation

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Wn 5/10/04



NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	7500285	Oakley
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SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: KISSINGER, H _____ S/S _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT _____
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 DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC + _____ S CODEWORD _____
 TS SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: *Memorandum of Conversation between the Pres & Qabous of Oman Jan 9, 1975*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK _____ (_____)
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES <i>Scroft</i> _____ (*)
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR _____ (_____)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION _____ (_____)
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA	<u>+</u>			MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS _____ (_____)
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO _____ (_____)
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ (_____)
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? _____ (_____)
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE _____ (_____)
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: <u>1-22</u>
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
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NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH _____
 CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____
 NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____
 CROSS REF W/ _____
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: _____ FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:	
M/F'D _____	BY _____
CRT ID: _____	SA . SF _____
OPEN _____	HP NS _____
CLOSE _____	WH EP _____
	PA DY _____

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines State Rev. 2/14/04
By NARA, Date 5/11/04

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-2-

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 285

1/17

Peter Rodman -
What do we do
with this (second) mission
of the President's meeting
with the Sultan?

Bob Oakley





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S 7500798

→85

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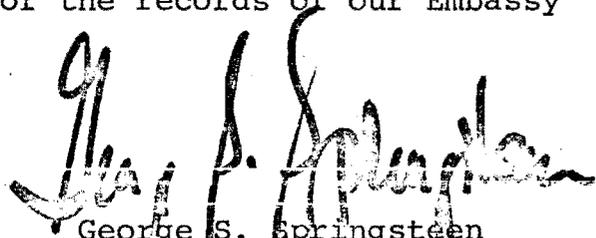
January 14, 1975

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 14, 1975

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NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			G NBR		INITIAL ACTION D	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	7500285		Oakley	
1	14	1	15	11				

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: KISSINGER, H _____ S/S _____ REFERENCE: _____ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

KISSINGER _____ COLBY, W _____ OTHER _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT _____

SCOWCROFT + _____ SCHLESINGER, J _____ LOU _____ NO FORN NODIS _____

DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC + _____ S _____ EYES ONLY EXDIS _____

TS _____ SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: *Memorandum of Conversation between the Pres & Qabous of Oman Jan 9, 1975*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR
	ACTION	INFO	
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT			
STAFF SECRETARY			
FAR EAST			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA	<u>+</u>		
EUROPE / CANADA			
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			
NSC PLANNING			
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			
INTELLIGENCE			

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK _____ ()

MEMO FOR PRES Scowcroft _____ (+)

REPLY FOR _____ ()

APPROPRIATE ACTION _____ ()

MEMO _____ TO _____ ()

RECOMMENDATIONS _____ ()

JOINT MEMO _____ ()

REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ ()

ANY ACTION NECESSARY? _____ ()

CONCURRENCE _____ ()

DUE DATE: 1-22

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
<u>7/31</u>			<u>C</u>	<u>DBE per Oakley</u>	
				<u>Orig not returned</u>	
				<u>Status of orig unknown</u>	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH _____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____

NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

CROSS REF W/ _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: + _____ FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

AUG 11 1975 BY: AS

CRT ID: mc SA SF

OPEN mc HP NS

CLOSE mc EP

PA PY

P/Sultan Qaboos/K

9 Jan 75

✓

P. Very pleased to have you here. Very proud of long relationship. Est in 1838. During Jackson presidency. Wonder how someone from hills of Ky could be so far sighted.
I remember to have Paul Casey in your country. What do they do?

S I think they are in a field worth
FBI worthy in a way.

P We are ~~so~~ reviewing a prog. Now a lot of retired people w/ skills. Primarily there were a lot who specialized in political matters. We have stopped most of that.

I ~~also~~ would appreciate your vision S. Yemen supported insurgency.

S They have been supporting revolutionaries & terrorists. They have 2 schools where they train about 500 young people whom they will later infiltrate not only into Oman but elsewhere.
E. Germany supports them also.

P How about PRC

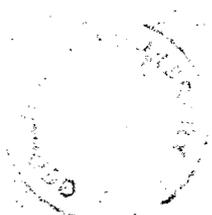
S Up to 2 yrs ago they were there

K Did Sovs come in there, after PRC left

S Yes. They were there together for a time. I think they were in conflict.
(couldn't hear)

Once we establish control in an area, we try to help people - opening schools, hospitals. It is a very primitive area.

In areas where we still have a lot of trouble. We have lost some soldiers because in ~~just~~ guerrilla warfare 20 men can overcome many more.



But soon we will be able to say we control our own
But for a long time to come we will have some
kind of breaks ~~and~~ troubles

P What is size of S. Yermen

S They about 750,000, and about 1,000,000.

P Is that oil area

S No. That is in a central area

K They are a nasty bunch.

P We support your efforts & want to cooperate. We
want to be able to supply some things monthly - Tron -
but it's what is about supply. We want to help
those who help themselves.

S We appreciate that. We want to help our people,
educate them, strengthen & economy, make use
of our resources - oil will also appear one day - like
copper, minerals, fisheries.
We have no intention to get involved w/ others
international affairs & ∴ we don't like interference w/ ours.

P How long you stay

S Till Saturday

P Hope you can come back

S Would like to come & spend 2-3 weeks. When is best
time

P April thru Oct.

R a little bit in summer

P But you used to think it was there - very humid here.

Are you exploring for more oil.

S Yes. Offshore & in gulf of Hormuz

P Any production yet?

AMU Almost ready.

K you have Iranian troops helping. How they doing



* Sniper scopes - told they couldn't have them.

S All right. But it takes time to learn to fight guerrillas

P I guess you can't use a pt in this type war

S Yes, we discuss them. We use them to spot, move people around, & sometimes strike.

(Discussion of a pt use - old planes better)

~~S We tried to~~

P Anything you need.

S We tried to get

* S. We will take care of that.

P ~~Is there~~ Are there any areas in which we could help.

S Can't think of any off hand, but we appreciate help from our friends

P Please to have be. won't pull out

S We pleased at that too. We feared they might.

