

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 014220

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . National security restriction  
TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Memorandum of Conversation  
DESCRIPTION . . . . . Meeting of Ford, Kissinger, Scowcroft,  
Rumsfeld  
CREATION DATE . . . . . 01/07/1976  
VOLUME . . . . . 3 pages  
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 036600185  
COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. MEMORANDA OF  
CONVERSATIONS  
BOX NUMBER . . . . . 17  
FOLDER TITLE . . . . . January 7, 1976 - Ford, Kissinger,  
Scowcroft, Rumsfeld  
DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 10/29/2001  
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . WHM

*Partially declassified copy  
in open file*

REDACTED  
5/7/10

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED w/ portions exempted  
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3  
MR # 10-121, #24  
State Rev 9/30/01: NSA-LW 517110  
By dal NARA, Date 7/9/10

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the  
President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, January 7, 1976  
9:19 - 10:23 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

[Secretary Kissinger joins the meeting at 9:22 a. m.]

The President: Wasn't that a helluva front page?

Kissinger: I had breakfast with Scotty Reston. He thinks you are on the way up but he thinks it's better if you didn't get reelected because of the split between the Executive and legislative branches being of different parties. Then I blasted him on what his paper had done. I told him it was peanuts in Italy, that while the local Communists will fight with Moscow they will be unified against the United States.

Scowcroft: I think you should blast the leaders.

Kissinger: I think you should go on national television and blast the Congress.

The President: Shouldn't I blast them in the State of the Union message? I want a foreign policy section in that.

Kissinger: You could do that. Say you won't talk about foreign policy because we can't have one without national unity and the Congress is tearing us apart. But if you do it separately, they have no retort. The cameras won't pan the stoney-faced Congressmen.

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The President: I agree we should do it: it's just the forum. Whichever, it has to be the best foreign policy speech I have ever given. Can you have a draft by Saturday?

Kissinger: Sure.

Don feels strongly I should be present at the State of the Union message. I made a slight try with Dobrynin but didn't get any encouragement.

Rumsfeld: I think it is bad. Henry under fire, the President under fire -- everyone will have a field day speculating.

Kissinger: I was impressed with Don's argument. I will press hard with Dobrynin on it, using Don's argument. We had a very good lunch yesterday. My people were ecstatic.

The President: I think that is good.

Kissinger: I met Allon at the airport. He made a public statement on leaving Israel that he is coming here to get us to undo the damage we had done in the Security Council. I gave him hell. He responded that we had betrayed Israel like no other country ever had. I said he couldn't talk to a major power like that. He said, "major power, You are a laughing stock -- in Africa, in the Middle East, everywhere. You aren't a major power."

I would like to start our meeting by setting them straight that we will consult our own interests. I think we can't get by a year without progress. I would tell your Ambassador that you will work hard in the Security Council to reconvene Geneva on the basis of the sanctity of all states in the area and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians; that we will have informal talks with the PLO and press for a unilateral move on Syria. I would vote with Israel next week.

The President: Will Allon be giving speeches here?

Kissinger: I will warn him that if he makes one more statement like that, we will go public. Don said the Jews would oppose you in an election unless it looks like you will win. If you show strength now, they may decide that.

The President: It amazes me that such a tiny people can raise so much havoc here.



Kissinger: Now on the boycott. The Jews are trying to so embroil us with the Arabs that we are paralyzed. They are using your boycott statement of moral principle to push it to the legal limits. The Bechtel suit -- all they are doing is obeying the law of the country; and Burns has gone hog wild. ....

On the oil deal, the nitpickers miss the major point. This is an opportunity to crack OPEC. I agreed the price differential is not great now and it is a buyer's market. We shouldn't keep dragging it out.

The President: I will act on it today. Get it to me.

Kissinger: Law of the Sea. I plan to lead the delegation to the March meeting in New York. I think there is a 60-40 percent chance of signing a treaty next February. If we don't get it, I would be willing to let the Bill go or split off deep sea.

The President: Why don't you talk to Ted Stevens?

Kissinger: If I can get to Stevens to hold off until after the March Conference. If we don't get an overall agreement, we would withdraw our opposition to the bill. Then it could still pass before the election.

The President: Talk to Ted right away.

Scowcroft: [Described the possible parliamentary maneuvers and Magnuson opposition.]

The President: How about moving a shop off Angola?

[It was agreed that options would be prepared for the President by the NSC Meeting].

[The Middle East Ambassadors -- Eilts, Murphy, Pickering, and Porter... were then ushered in.]



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