

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Richard Cheney, Assistant to the President

DATE AND TIME: Monday, March 8, 1976

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Findley gave me a letter on cruise missiles. [He hands it to Scowcroft]. He gets into these things from time to time.

Kissinger: We need to study first what cruise missile doctrine should be so we don't get caught, but they are not so good that they are the solution to all strategic problems.

Rumsfeld: We can do more, but it will be unsatisfactory. We can't foresee 10 years out with precision what the uses will be. It never yet has happened.

Kissinger: How about putting it into the Defense Review Panel?

Rumsfeld: It about has its carburetor flooded now.

The President: Let's do that and get the best look we can.
[There is discussion of Reagan and the damage he can do in the general election with his arguments.]

Kissinger: I am giving a speech in Boston which slams Reagan and the Congress. We need to coordinate our two speeches.

Cheney: I wonder if we need the speech and the message to go at the same time. Maybe we want to save the message for later.

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS



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MR 01-101, # 32, OSD Dec 31/04, Sec 1.1 11/27/01

del NARA Dec 7/20/04

The President: Let's look at them today and decide.

Rumsfeld: We have a problem with the SS 7 and 8 dismantling.
[There is discussion of what should be done.]

Kissinger: Don and I both gave interviews to U.S. News and World Report which are totally compatible but we are very hard on the Soviets. On the whole they have stuck by detente -- only Angola is an aberration, and it's partly a search for compensation for our successes. We have to stop this stuff.

Rumsfeld: I have all my people saying that these are long-term Soviet trends and we are in rough equivalence and we want to stop the deterioration, not reverse it.

The President: Here is a Christian Science Monitor article saying how could I say that in December FNLA and UNITA were winning.

[There is discussion of the fact that it wasn't right.]

The President: What is the significance of Golda coming back in?

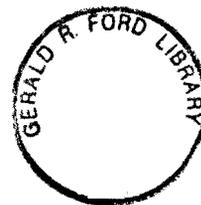
Kissinger: Rabin is in trouble. She is tough, but when she is convinced, she will beat her maniacs into line. But as an advisor, she won't beat anyone into line and the result will be more hawkish.

We need to say the same thing on C-130's.

Rumsfeld: I didn't know anything about it in my press conference.

Kissinger: You helped in Egypt. But we should say that right now we are talking only about C-130's. If the situation changes and we need to do more, we will consult with the Congress. I wouldn't fight the issue now whether we will have a defense relationship. We have put our thinking before the Congress so we were certain we were leveling with them, and right now we are requesting only C-130's. We don't foreclose something else but there is no decision on anything else.

We do no good to Sadat by having all the Democrats come out against him.



The President: Al Haig is catching hell for his speech.

Kissinger: He showed bad judgment. He talked about how bad it was to allow Communists in government in Europe.

Rumsfeld: Anything else?

Kissinger: I think we are overdoing it saying the Soviets are overwhelming us.

Rumsfeld: I have told my people to be careful about that.

The President: But Haig did almost say it is almost hopeless.

Rumsfeld: Our problem is not now -- we have what we need -- but it is the continued erosion of our capability to deter lower levels of conflict in the future.

Kissinger: What has hurt us is the strategic decisions of the '60's -- which were made by the Democrats -- and the Congressional budget cuts of the 70's.

Rumsfeld: That's right. Our situation is the result of the Democratic decisions.

Kissinger: [Raised the issue of the bridging tanks for Israel from the FRG issue. Just for information.]

Eilts -- I hope you can see him briefly before he goes back.

The President: When is that?

Kissinger: Tomorrow night. He will be carrying our ideas to Sadat.



PIK/R

8 ~~Mar~~ Mar 76

hang - NODIS
Anti-Satellite Study
Speech

P Finally gave me a letter on cruise missiles (Hanks to me) He gets into those things from time to time.

K We need to study just what our doctrine should be so we don't get caught but they are no good & a solution to all that - prob.

R We can do more, but it will be messy. We can't freeze 10 yrs out ~~with~~ w/ precision what ~~ever~~ ^{where} will be. ~~Where~~ ^{where} has yet happened.

R How about putting it into a DRP.

R It about has its character faded now

P Let's do that and get the best look we can

(Discussion of Reagan & a damage he can do in a good election w/ his arguments)

K I'm giving a speech in Boston which talks Reagan & a Cong. We need to coordinate that and 2 speeches.

C I wonder if we need a speech & a message go at the same time. Maybe we want to save a message for later.

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(Discussion of what should be done)

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BY lh NLF, DATE 7/23/04



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Get Real memo on 55-1 around:

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