
~~SECRET~~ (GDS)
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

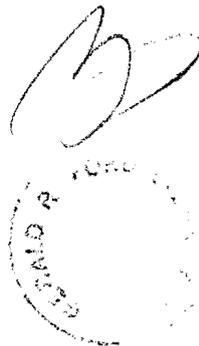
1a

August 3, 1976

MEMO FOR: Brent Scowcroft

FROM: Robert B. Oakley *RO*

Attached is a record of the conversation you had with Ambassador Hedda from Tunisia on July 30, 1976, for your approval. No distribution is contemplated.



A handwritten signature, likely of Robert B. Oakley, is written above a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "GERALD R. FORD" and "1975" around the perimeter.

~~SECRET~~ (GDS)

ln 7/28/04

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~ (GDS)

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
His Excellency Ali Hedda, Ambassador from
Tunisia
Robert B. Oakley, NSC Staff

DATE AND TIME: Friday, July 30, 1976
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Assistant's Office

After being welcomed back to Washington after a foreshortened home leave, Hedda said he had worked very hard during his brief stay in Tunis, first in encouraging American business exchanges with Tunisia and then with the Libyan threat against Tunisia and what could be done to counter it. He delivered to General Scowcroft a hand-written letter from Bourguiba, Jr., who had also asked Hedda to convey his thanks and appreciation for an excellent visit and good talks with the President and the Secretary. Scowcroft replied that he had been most impressed by Bourguiba, Jr.

Hedda described his special mission which had caused him to see Under Secretary of State Habib, Mr. Noyes of Defense (ISA) and Scowcroft, and to request an appointment with the Secretary. It is one of seeking help in coping with the serious threat posed by Qadhafi of Libya. He is mad but dangerous and Tunisia's latest intelligence is that in addition to the 700 mercenaries presently being trained in Libya for operations against other states, an appeal has gone out with strong financial inducements for 1,000 more to come to Libya. It is possible that an attack by "commandos" against Tunisia could occur on President Bourguiba's birthday, August 3. The GOT had gone to its best and strongest friends, the US, France and Egypt. All have agreed to help and all three are sending naval vessels to demonstrate their support.

~~SECRET~~ (GDS)

Subject to GDS of E. O. 11652
Automatically Downgraded at Two-
Year Intervals and Declassified on
December 31, 1984.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES State Review 3/13/04

BY lm NARA DATE 7/23/04

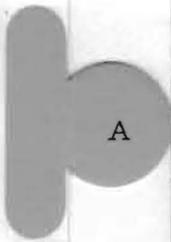
Scowcroft said he had spoken to Defense which had promised to do more in the way of naval visits. Hedda said he had asked Habib and Noyes to accelerate delivery on TOW Missiles and Chaparral anti-aircraft weapons, and to raise the FY 76 and FY 77 FMS credits rather than waiting until FY 78 and 79 to do more. He had spoken to Senators Percy and Humphrey and McGovern who have promised to submit a joint resolution supporting Tunisia, perhaps on Bourguiba's birthday. They should also support an increase in funds. Hedda also asked that we intensify intelligence cooperation in order to help solve the long-term problem. Scowcroft responded that we will do all we can to help. Tunisia knows just how strong our support is. He observed that the Egyptian military movements along Libya's eastern border should deter any attack on Tunisia. Hedda said that this was true, but the GOT fears instead of a major military attack, a small commando unit which could assassinate or do damage to vital economic targets. Libya had trained over 1,000 people for the attack on the Sudan, and Tunisia is an open, free society with no means of tightly controlling movement of people.

Scowcroft said there is no question but that we will cooperate closely in the intelligence field and try to speed up arms deliveries. We agree about the threat posed by Qadhafi. Hedda expressed appreciation for the reception and left.

Key Passage of BBJr Letter (Tab A)

Tunisia needs "highly accurate detection and even pre-detection of any move started across our borders, something like the installations in the Sinai; it also needs "highly accurate and almost light-speed means of communication to keep the proper authorities informed so as they are able to commit all might to the border should any move (by Libya) be detected. Counter-action should be based on "light weaponry, bazookas, hand-portable missile throwers and grenades which could be used as soon as the alarm bell sounds."

"Ambassador Hedda will take time to make an assessment of my suggestions."



A



4/ by both the executive branch on one hand, and the legislative branch of the U.S.A. would have a deterring effect if it is couched in a sufficiently warning tone expressing friendship and the fact that the U.S.A. will not remain uncommitted when it comes to TUNISIA'S security.

Forgive me, dear General for being so long and allow me to beg you to convey to President Ford my deepest expression of respect and gratitude for his so warm welcome and feelings towards an old friend of the U.S.A. back to a time when it was not fashionable to be so, to declare to be so, and it was even dangerous.

Accept dear General the assurances of my high consideration and everlasting gratitude for your concern for my little country, which means so much to us and to the free world yours, sincerely
Habib Bourguiba Jr.

July 24th 1976.

Habib Bourguiba Jr

La Mersa
Tunis

To General Brent Scowcroft
Special Assistant to
the President
for National Security.



Dear General,
Upon my return to Tunis, I found your very kind letter; I was happy to read it and I am less happy to write these few lines, which Ambassador Hedda will explain to you: in fact I wish I were not such a good "prophet" or Jeremiah! Our good "brother" on the East-South is again kicking around and we have some information, according

3/ The conclusion; the counter action is based, also, on light weaponry "basookas, hand portable missile throwers and grenades - which could be used as soon as the alarm bell sounds -

of course we hope that we'll never have to play with such toys but remember our saying:

"Pray god and keep a stone in your hand!"

Thank you again for what you did, you are doing and you are about to do in favor of the last bastion of democracy and freely chosen way of life in the Mediterranean Sea. and allow me finally to make a suggestion which could be useful:

It will take time to make an assessment of my suggestions

① and ② -

Maybe the release of a statement, sternly issued

to which, being impressed by his failure in Sudan and Egypt he might try a blow below the belt on the occasion of father's birthday, August 3rd next -

Ed Mullenby, the U.S. Ambassador has been kept informed and I wish to present an idea of my own: the best of our protection would rely, in my opinion, on a highly sophisticated system, two folders

1/ highly accurate detection and even prediction of any more starter across our borders, something like the installations based on The Sinai

2/ highly accurate and almost light speed means of communication to keep the proper authorities informed so as they are able to cover all right on the border, that any more is detected

