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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:	President Ford Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
DATE AND TIME:	Friday - October 1, 1976 9:53 a.m.
PLACE:	The Oval Office The White House

The President: Your speech sounded great. How did the Gromyko meeting go?

<u>Kissinger:</u> He was on his best behavior. They basically just want to get back into the game. On SALT, on the Middle East, he wants Geneva. I said they would get nowhere. If they kept mentioning the PLO they will get nowhere. He indicated some flexibility, but I am not sure we want the Soviets involved.

[There is some discussion of the campaign].

Kissinger: The Soviets will be little mad about my speech.

The President: I haven't looked at the brief.

<u>Kissinger</u>: He wants to consult on Law of the Sea, non-proliferation, and the Middle East. ON SALT, they are ready to move. He wants me to come to Moscow. I am against it, but it is a crime what has happened.

<u>The President:</u> I agree completely. What some members of this Administration have done.

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<u>Kissinger:</u> I would say this whole year has been bad. The campaign has not been fair to them, but their action in Angola and now their rhetoric in southern Africa are a serious block to better relations.

On SALT I made a pitch for the Rumsfeld position and he just brushed it aside. He'll never agree to exempt Backfire and cruise missiles.

You could have a SALT agreement by February. But we have to repair the damage. You can see from Genscher the Soviets are approaching the Europeans rather than us. We can keep the Europeans in control as long as they think we have the inside track, but otherwise they will establish their own contacts. So I would tell him we will repair things after November.

[Some discussion of the UN speech and Schlesinger's trip to China.]

On Panama, it would be helpful but not essential if Bunker could go to Panama under strict instructions. [Some discussion].

The President: Let me think for 24 hours.

<u>Kissinger</u>: On Africa, I think things are calming down. I had a breakfast for Doc Morgan -- about 40 Congressmen -- they were unanimous about Africa.

I am speaking at Hilton Head. I will talk extemporaneously for 15 minutes and take Q's and A's.

The President: Good,

[Discussion of why we were late in southern Africa.]



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