

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday - March 17, 1976  
9:50 - 10:20 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

[There is a brief political discussion on the election primaries.]

Kissinger: We need to settle this C-130 thing.

The President: What more do I have to do?

Kissinger: There is the issue of whether to go by FMS or commercial sales. Today is the worst time to meet with the Jewish leaders, but I think you need to be tough with them. I would recommend staying with FMS.

Scowcroft: I agree. Besides, the bill now in conference would put the same Congressional restrictions on commercial sales.

The President: We are right and I want to defend what we have done. Let's stay with the FMS.

Rumsfeld: I think you will have a problem with the Jews in September. They will be getting more and more shrill. I think we should get them involved and work with them. Occupy them, to keep the decibel level manageable.

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

MB 01-100 # 35, Pt. 2, 10/1/01

By del NARA, Date 10/24/01

Kissinger: The Jews will be against you no matter what. They will think they will be better off with the Democrats.

Rumsfeld: I disagree. In politics you try to turn total hostility into moderate hostility, warm help into enthusiastic help.

The President: Don, I think you are right that we should work on it, but we are right and I want to stick with that.

[There is more discussion on what to do with the Jews.]

Rumsfeld: When will we answer the Schmidt letter?

Kissinger: I have a draft coming to Brent for clearance.

The President: Is that the steel issue?

Scowcroft: No, it is the rambling letter about the U.S. and FRG being out in front in NATO, etc.

Kissinger: You can solve your problems with Schmidt when he comes. He will be no problem.

Rumsfeld: I think he feels a little neglected.

The President: What about Wilson?

Kissinger: I think he is losing his stomach for the fight on forces, which is what he would have to face. I wouldn't have foreseen it, but I think he had lost his nerve.

The President: Will Callaghan win?

Kissinger: I think so, but I am afraid Healy will be Foreign Minister.

The President: Lucky for you.

Don, what do you have?

Rumsfeld: First, all these duck blind cases -- there will be almost 50 of them.

There is a close defense relationship with Iran. Brent and I are trying to coordinate our arms sales with our foreign policy. But there is a group called Lavey which includes Ken O'Donnell, Ben Smith and Jim Keogh.

✓ P/K/R 9:50 - 10:20 am  
17 Mar 76

(Some <sup>political</sup> discussion)

K We need to settle this C-130 thing

P What more do I have to do

R There is a case of FMS or evul. Today is a worst time to meet w/c Jewish leaders, but I think you need to be tough w/ them. I would recommend staying w/ FMS.

S I agree. Besides a bill now in cong would put some restriction on evul talks.

P We are right and I want to defend what we have done. Let's stay w/c FMS.

R I think you will have a prob w/c Jews in Sept. They will be getting more & more hostile. I think we should get them involved & work w/ them. Occupy them to keep a desired level of money.

K The Jews will be against you no matter what. They will think they can do better off w/c Dems.

R 2 choices. In politics you try to turn total hostility to moderate hostility, ~~or~~ warm help to enthusiasm, etc.

P Dan, I think you are right that we should work on it, but we are right and I want to stick w/ that.

(More discussion on what to do w/c Jews)

R When will we receive the Schmidt letter

K I have a dept coming to Gen for clearance.

P Is that still issue

S Now it is a circulating letter about SS-FRC sent in front in NATO, etc.

K You can solve your probs w/ Schmidt when he comes. He will be no prob

R I think he has a little neglected.

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AUTHORITY 28 CFR 21-100 #35

BY Wh NLF, DATE 4/14/04



P What about Wilton

K I think he is using his strength on force fight, which is what he would have to face. I wouldn't have pressed it, but I think he had lost his nerve.

P Will Callaghan win

K I think so, but I fear Buckley will shake him

P Buckley for you.

P Don, what have you?

R First, all these shock behind cases - there will be about 50 of them

There is a close dep. relationship w/ Dan. Hunt & Dan Tapp & coordinate talks w/ F.D. Hunt. There is a group called hardly which includes, Ken O'Donnell, Ben Smith, & Jim Keogh.

Lavey