

Scowcroft file

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.8

MR 01-101, #28, OSD LCL 3/2/04, SA LCL 11/27/01

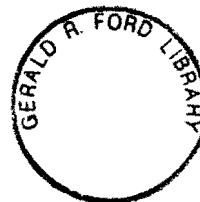
MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION:

del NARA, Date 7/20/04

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Secretary of State Kissinger  
Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 26, 1976  
9:21 - 10:18 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office



Rumsfeld: I have a subject. Today they decide on the Defense appropriation in the House. Mahon is still nervous about his committee. I can feel it. He wants to go the old route of cuts. I have told them it is difficult to make any more cuts this year -- it's a bare-bones budget. If he cuts it and the Budget Committee does, we are in trouble.

There are three areas of concern: any pay changes have to go on top; shipbuilding we are reviewing; SALT may need a supplemental. If they want to add on for any of these, it should go on top of the \$112.7 billion. I just wanted you to know they may come in over your budget.

The President: That would be a miracle.

Kissinger: My only concern is the Democrats adding to the defense budget. They do it every 16 years.

Rumsfeld: We are protected on all these areas.

Will you meet with the committee leaders - or the full committee?

The President: I would stick to a small group.

I was asked a question about why we failed in Angola. I said we didn't -- that Congress got cold feet.

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[Discussion of Angola/Cuba.]

How about this Cuban overflight?

Scowcroft: It's a civil airline flight to Canada.

The President: Stop it. There will be no Cuban overflights.

Scowcroft: We'll have to stop our overflights over Cuba.

The President: That's all right, I don't want it.

What is this about Jordan and Syria getting closer?

Kissinger: It is true. We are losing our position.

[Discussed developments, including Rabin saying he wanted a crisis with Syria in November.]

Our plan was to consult with Sadat privately and let him sell it as a peace plan to the other Arabs. Now the Israelis have put it in the papers. Rabin has totally blown our chances now that it is an Israeli public proposal. We maybe should go out with our own peace plan and let the Jews scream. If a crisis comes, we should announce a settlement plan within the first couple of days of the conflict.

[Some discussion of the impact of the Cuban adventure in Angola and need for contingency planning for Cuba and the Middle East].

Rumsfeld: [Discussed his trip to the Middle East. It was agreed he would go in June to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Israel].

[Discussion of contingencies regarding moves against Rhodesia/Namibia].

Kissinger: If they move in Rhodesia, I would hit the Cubans hard and then enforce majority rule in Rhodesia to show that it wasn't our aim to prop up the white regime.

Rumsfeld: I think we've got to get our act together beforehand. Get the Hill behind us.



[Discussion of being sweet or tough on Congress. Don wants to be sweet -- the President tough.]

I would like McAuliffe for ISA. I know he is an FSO, but I really need someone. Jordan can't do it.

Kissinger: It's okay with me.

The President: I have no objection.

Rumsfeld: About unionization of the armed forces. Thurmond is proposing legislation. I don't want to unify the unions on this.



✓ P/K/R 26 Feb 76 9<sup>21</sup> - 10<sup>15</sup> am

R I have a subject. Today is Def app in House. When is <sup>stn</sup> news about his vote - I can feel it. He wants to go all out of vote. I have told them it is by this year - it is base base budget. If he votes it a budget vote done, we are in trouble. There are 3 areas of concern: any pay change has to go on top; ship building we are reversing; Salt very much supplemental. If they want to add on for any of these, it should go out of 112.7. Just wanted you to know they may come in over your budget.

P That would be a miracle

K My only concern is - Dennis adding to def budget - they don't every 16 yrs.

R We are protected on all these areas.

Will you meet w/c Senate leaders - or a full committee.

P I would stick to a small group.

Dennis asked a question about why we parked in Angola. I said we didn't - that long but got cold feet

~~He~~ (Discussion of Angola/ Cuba)

How about this Cuban overflight.

S (Described what happened)

P Stop it. There will be no Cuban overflights

S We'll have to stop our overflights

P That's all right, I don't want it.

What is this about Jordan & Syria getting closer

K It is true. We are being our partner.

(Discussed deep cuts, including Rubin saying he wanted a crisis w/ Syria in Nov)

Our plan was to consult w/ Sabat privately

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AUTHORITY As MIL 01-101, #29; OSSI ltr 3/12/04, State ltr 11/27/01

DATE 2/23/04



century plan (a Cuba + ME crisis)

\* ~~have~~ let him sell it as a pure plan to  
collect funds. Now I have put it in a  
paper. Rabin has totally blown our chances  
now that it is out public proposal. &  
we might should go out w/ our own plan  
plan & let a few weeks.

If a crisis arises, we must have something  
a settlement w/in a 1<sup>st</sup> couple days of receipt.

(Some discussion of a impact of Cuban  
adventure in Angola + ~~part~~ well for  
century planning for Cuba + ME)

R (Trip to ME. Expected he would go in June - SA,  
Jordan, E, I.)

(Discussion of centrifuges regarding issues  
against Rhodesia / Namibia)

K In Rhodesia, I would like a Cuban base &  
then enforce sanctions in Rhodesia to show that  
we're not an arm

R I think we've got to get our act together beforehand,  
get a will behind us.

(Discussion of being sweet or tough on Congo.  
Dore wants to be sweet - P Tough)

Dore would like the UN to lift the FSA. I know he  
→ FSO, but I don't think we'll touch. Jordan can do it.

K OK w/ me

P I have no objection

R Ammiration of armed forces. The command is  
proposing legis. I don't want to make a crisis on

