

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MP 98-3841 NSC Ltr. 6/24/99

By KBH NARA, Date 4/21/00

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME: Monday - March 15, 1976
9:23 - 10:06 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office



The President: What do you think about sending Nixon's report back to him after we have seen it?

Kissinger: I don't think we should give it wide distribution. It sounds like a good idea to me. I don't think anyone but us and maybe George needs to see it.

The President: Let's think about it.

Kissinger: Rogers has agreed to the economic job. So I would move Habib to the Sisco job. Then for the Assistant's jobs, we could move up the deputy in Latin America. For Asia, either Sneider or Newsom. Newsom is quiet and no world-beater, but Sneider's problem is he is out for himself.

The President: I don't know either of them.

Scowcroft: I prefer Newsom.

Kissinger: We also need someone at Moscow. We could use Toon, though he is known as anti-Soviet. Bruce is a possibility, or Davis.

The President: Bruce is great, but it is a tough job.

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 b (1, 3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.

Kissinger: We don't have to decide it now.

The President: Sadat's speech played well. This should have some effect on the C-130's for Egypt. He is really being tough.

Kissinger: It is possible we could have a war over Lebanon. Partly because the Israelis might want to crack the Syrians. And the Syrians may want to put troops along the southern frontier to help the PLO army. It would be a peaceful move, but I'm sure the Israelis would move. I have warned Dinitz and told Asad I think it would provoke an Israeli reaction. But if the PLO is there, that could provoke a war too.

The President: How about a UN presence along the border?

Kissinger: That is a possibility -- I may have to go out there if it really gets bad.

I think sooner or later we have to crack the Cubans. I talked to Yamani last Friday and even the Iranians are worried about the Cubans getting into the Middle East countries. I think we have to humiliate them. If they move into Namibia or Rhodesia, I would be in favor of clobbering them. That would create a furor and we might have to come out for black rule. But I think we might have to demand they get out of Africa.

The President: What if they don't?

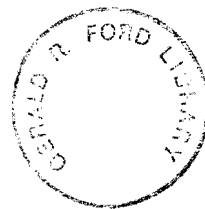
Kissinger: I think we could blockade. But I think we need a WSAG and maybe an NSC. But I don't think we have to identify where they might move -- just examine contingencies for wherever they might act.

The President: I am for that. Can we do it right away?

Kissinger: I am giving a speech in Dallas. I thought I would talk about the need for a high defense budget, point out the slackening relevance of strategic forces and that the present force structure relates to decisions of 10 years ago. No one has taken on my Boston speech except it was political. They even aren't talking about detente anymore.

The President: I didn't see Jackson, but he didn't sound so strong.

Kissinger: I went to a dinner Saturday with Democratic liberals. They attacked Jackson and congratulated me on my speech. If Jackson is to the right of you, I think you are in great shape.



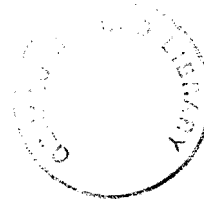
The President: I think it will be Humphrey and Carter.

Kissinger: I like Humphrey and it would be a good campaign, but I think he would be an easy mark for you too.

I am in a fight with Levi. I think I cannot stand by while Halperin tries me in the press. There is no inconsistency between me and Nixon except on an inconsequential point. Hoover made clear in a memcon that Haperin was a security risk. Edward Bennett Williams recommends I ask the court for relief from these attacks, by enjoining against talking to the press, and ask for dismissal, and so on. In making a petition, I could make the point there are no inconsistencies. Levi says I have the case won and I just have to sit and take it. I think I might pull the case away from Justice. It will cause a bit of a stink.

The President: Does Levi know this?

Kissinger: He doesn't believe I'll go through with it. But I am being tried in the press and when I win two years from now I will already be convicted. Ed just doesn't want to make waves. He thinks I have it won and he is right on the legal points.



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Pamela a copy of Chicago & A's.

PIK 15 Mar 76 ✓

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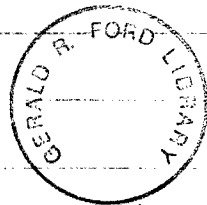
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Same as MR 99-38, #1

By KBH, NARA, Date 4/21/00



Callahan

Bombing to WH dinner

Yamou

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consult Humphrey

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When ~~at~~ ~~you~~ ~~ask~~ I ask a court for relief from these attacks, by enjoining against taking to press, ask for dismissal, etc. In making a petition, I could make point that there is no inconsistency. Henry says I have a case won + I just have to sit + take it. I think Henry will pull ~~back~~ a case away from justice. It will ~~cause~~ ^{cause} a bit of a strike.

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