

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador John A. Volpe,
U.S. Ambassador to Italy
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, November 6, 1975
9:45 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: John, you look fit.

Volpe: I am doing my exercises and pushing away the pasta.

President: What is your appraisal of the situation in Italy?

Volpe: The Christian Democrats have to get off their fanny and get to work. We need to tell them they can't count on our support unless they start to rejuvenate the party. Andreotti is one of the ones I think is willing to go to work. I told Secretary Kissinger -- who saw him yesterday -- to give it to him straight.

President: When are the next elections?

Volpe: The general elections are in 1977 unless there is a crisis. But regional elections in Sicily and Rome come next Spring. We really have to get busy. I am out giving pep talks all over the country, and the local people really appreciate it. I argue against compromise with the Communists.

President: Do the other European Ambassadors do that?

Volpe: Not very much.

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

~~SECRET - XGDS (3)~~
CLASSIFIED BY: ~~THOMAS W. KISSINGER~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines (Sulser)
By Y64, NARA, Date 6/29/99

President: I plan to take that up at the economic summit. There isn't much point in laboring over economics if we aren't taking the political steps necessary to strengthen the West.

Volpe: There isn't much going on. If the Christian Democrats could hold their own or gain a point or two in the Rome, Genoa and Sicily elections next year, it would be a tremendous psychological boost.

Scowcroft: Aren't the local Communist governments working on impressing people with their efficiency at running things?

Volpe: They have a tremendous propaganda machine. Bologna has the highest debt in the country. I am trying to get the Christian Democrats to publicize these things and get the story out.

They have to revise their election lists to put some of the young blood higher on the list so it just isn't the old heads who get in.

There was a bitter fight over the Christian Democratic leadership last summer. It was poorly done and the new Party Secretary doesn't want the job. Leone wants to hold the convention in January rather than March and to get Forlani in there. He is a very attractive guy -- he doesn't really want it but is patriotic enough to take it on. He also will have to cultivate the Socialists some, because the Christian Democrats can't rule by themselves.

President: John, I have a bad day ahead.

Volpe: Thank you for seeing me, Mr. President.

Tell Emma they better ~~best~~ & change in Italy

✓ P/Volpe
6 Nov 75

P John, you look fit

V I am doing my exercises and pushing away
& faster

P What your appraisal of sit. in Italy

V The DC has to get off its pussy & get to work.
We need to tell them they can't count on our
support unless they start to rejuvenate a
party. Andreotti is nice & me & think is willing
to get work. I told K - who saw him yesterday -
to give it to him straight.

P When are next elections

V And elections in 77 unless a crisis. But regional
elections in Sicily & Rome come next Spring.
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it. I argue against compromise at the Council

P Do other Euro Amb do that.

V Not very much.

P I plan to take that up at a Euro summit. There
isn't much point in taking labouring over & over
if we aren't taking a political step necessary to
strengthen the West.

V There isn't much going on. If the DC could hold
its own or gain a point or 2 in Rome, Genoa,
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tremendous pay boost.

S Aren't the local Councils working on improvement
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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/75, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY ba NARA DATE 6/14/04

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to get Furlan in there. He's a very attractive
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to take it on.

We also have to cultivate Socialists now, because
a DC can't work by itself.

P. Jovan, shows a bad day ahead

V

V

