THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and

Assistant to the President for National

Security Affairs

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, January 13, 1975

9:25 - 10:20 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

The White House

<u>Kissinger:</u> I still think the moves in Southeast Asia are right, but Defense is so opposed to them that they would leak them and cause us an enormous problem with the Hill. Then you would have to say a thousand ways what you would <u>not</u> do. This is the worst way to deal with the North Vietnamese.

President: Who in Defense is opposed?

Kissinger: There was no opposition by Defense at the WSAG. It is at the top and designed to put some space between Schlesinger and Vietnam and put the heat on you and me.

The best way to make these moves is quietly.

President: Could we just leave out the F-4s?

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CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

Kissinger: I think any of these moves would give us the same problem. The softest would be the F-4s to the Philippines as a training exercise.

Scowcroft: Or the B-52s to Guam.

President: Why don't we move the B-52s to Guam?

<u>Kissinger:</u> And the F-4 to the Philippines. Make sure Defense says it is a training exercise.

On the Vietnam supplemental. There are several options: One is the \$300 million; Martin wants to go back to the original request.

The Cambodia economic aid we can do by just renewing the PL-480 from the ceiling. There are two ways to go on Cambodia military.

President: If you can avoid going to the Foreign Relations Committees right away, it would help.

<u>Kissinger:</u> You are the best judge of that. I would like \$700, but would rather have \$300 now than \$700 in June.

[Some more discussion]

Could we discuss Allon?

If you accept my recommendation, it will be the toughest meeting with an Israeli and it could result in a blowup. If we fail with Egypt, Sadat would either be forced out or turn increasingly anti-American. We must consider how to get maximum intimidation.

Rockefeller has the reputation of being pro-Jewish. He should either be there, or we should give him your talking points and have Brent there.

President: I like the latter idea.

<u>Kissinger:</u> You should say you are extremely dissatisfied with the nature of the relationship which has developed. It is impossible if everything leaks. Second, there must be a settlement by the end of February including the oil fields and the passes. Only then will Kissinger come to the Middle East. We will get the maximum concessions we can get from Egypt but they will have to trust us.

Three, you can't approve the next tranche before then and you will veto it if the Congress passes it. Fourth, you hope they will keep this quiet because it is not in either side's interest for there to be public confrontation. But that will be their choice.

Rabin has said he would like answers on the military supply. I suggest Brent say the President will discuss it with Allon.

<u>President:</u> There is no other way to go. I think the Shah and Faisal going to Egypt is just holding Sadat up until we can move.

Kissinger: Absolutely. But you must know that if we succeed, we still next year will be sitting here doing this same thing. But in a year a lot of things could have changed.

<u>President:</u> I read yesterday the Israeli oil workers said they would only be there a short time.

<u>Kissinger:</u> I am afraid the Israeli Cabinet will say we are blackmailing them. They will say Egypt hasn't promised anything. The fact is Egypt can't promise much. I have carried them for six years. I think we have no choice. Brent?

Scowcroft: Absolutely. You have bent over backwards -- at some cost to our diplomacy.

Kissinger: Israel is happy with Rabat now because it gives them an excuse. Even with an agreement, Egypt will still move toward the Soviet Union and you will be accused of selling out to Sadat who is turning traitor. Maybe you should call Max Fisher in and talk turkey. You are doing this because you think you are saving Israel this way. Another war would be disastrous.

Let me get it written up in the NSC office. Maybe Fisher could come in on Friday.

President: He is leaving soon for the Middle East.

<u>Kissinger:</u> Israel may use your pressure to get military supply, or they may decided that if they give now there is no stopping and they will go public.

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President: Will I commit myself to MATMON-B if they agree?

Kissinger: No. But we should pour in supplies after the agreement. Then we have an excuse. We may have to give more economic aid too.

President: As compensation for losing the oil?

Kissinger: Yes.

On PL-480, I would go to the high side and move Vietnam and Cambodia to the Military Sales Act.

I talked to Burns -- Schmidt will go ahead with the facility. I talked to Healey, who wants 10-12 billion. I told him 3 billion. I would start at 3 and grudgingly go to 5 or 6. If we go higher, that facility will be the governing one.

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Tono (Territo)