

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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April 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

His Excellency Ashraf Ghorbal
Egyptian Ambassador
His Excellency Amr Musa
Egyptian Foreign Minister's Office
The Honorable Zakari Loufty Gomaa
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
The Honorable Ramzi Stino
Vice Chairman, Industry and Power Committee
The Honorable Doctor Layla Taqla
Member, Education and Scientific Research
Committee
The Honorable Mustapha Kamel Murad
Chairman, Economic Committee
Mrs. Murad
The Honorable Abdul Latif Abdul Rahman el-Husseiny
Chairman, The Committee for Transport
The Honorable Muhiebdin Abdul Salam Al-Shazli
Member, Transport and Communications
Committee
The Honorable Mansour Mohamed Mahmoud Hassan
Member, Planning and Budget Committee
Mrs. Hassan
The Honorable Doctor Roushdi Said
Member, Local Government and People's
Organization Committee
The Honorable Doctor Mohamed Safwat Mohie el-Din
Vice-Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
Mr. Tahsin Bashir
Presidential Press Supervisor for President
Sadat
The Honorable Ahmad al-Denerdash Touni
Member, Foreign Relations Committee
Doctor Gamal Oteify
Deputy Speaker for the People's Assembly
and Head of the Delegation
Mrs. Oteify

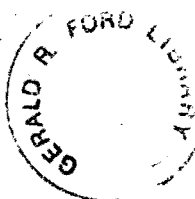
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BY , NARA, DATE 5/14/04

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~~TOP SECRET~~ -- XGDS (3)
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

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PARTICIPANTS:
(Continued)

President Gerald R. Ford
The Honorable Henry R. Kissinger
Secretary of State
Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Mr. Robert B. Oakley
National Security Council Staff
Mr. H. Freeman Matthews
Director of Egyptian Affairs - NEA
Department of State

TIME AND PLACE:

April 30, 1975 - 10:00 a.m.
The Cabinet Room

President:

[Enters room with Secretary Kissinger, makes circuit of table, shaking hands with each of Egyptians] We will have a press photo session first; it will take about one minute.

[To Dr. Oteify]: This is where the Secretary of State sits at the meetings of the National Security Council. You see he has been demoted.

[To Egyptian Delegation as a whole]: It is a great pleasure for me to have you here. As an ex-parliamentarian, I have a very special feeling for those who work in the legislative branch. Your program is a good one, coming to meet our Congress and travelling around the country. Please give President Sadat my thanks for his courtesy to our Congressmen and Senators who have recently visited Egypt. I have talked to many of them and they have all been very favorably impressed. There is now a much better understanding in Congress that all of us--the United States, Israel and the Arabs--need to work hard toward peace. I assure you this Administration will accept no stagnation or stalemate. We must keep the momentum of peace going. Meanwhile, we also

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want to build better bridges between the U. S. and Egypt. We are glad to again have diplomatic relations and to have such a fine Ambassador as Ambassador Ghorbal and we want to strengthen relations between us, not just on a formal basis, but on a constructive basis. We have been able to get \$250 million from Congress this year and 600,000 tons of PL 480. These are concrete indications of how we want to strengthen and broaden relations with the Egyptian people and not only President Sadat. The Egyptian and American people have long had an understanding between them, even in the difficult periods. I am delighted to have you and your Ambassador here. Please take my personal greetings to President Sadat. I hope to meet him sometime in the near future, so we can work together even more closely for peace in the Middle East.

Dr. Oteify:

I had planned to start my remarks with the usual courtesies but after hearing your remarks about no stagnation I am changing my own words. It was very good to hear these words from the President of the United States. You are a great President of a great country. Your image in the Middle East is one of a strong and wise statesman, a man of principle. For several years of war and bad relations between the U.S. and Egypt, we suffered. Now we are trying to open a new page. We believe that under your Administration we can achieve peace. You have made a big effort. Your Secretary of State has been several times to Egypt and the Middle East. Despite the suspension--we do not say failure--of the recent talks we are determined to continue the effort to find peace for the area. There is an identity of interest in peace for the U. S., Egypt, the Middle East and the entire world. But the time factor is very important. I am not asking for details but as your reassessment continues I am sure you will take into consideration the behavior of the parties during the recent talks. It is very kind of you to take the time to meet with us and I want to end my words by presenting you this book on 1,000 years of Cairo's history. We hope some day you can see it yourself.

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- President: Thank you for the beautiful book. I hope Mrs. Ford and I can visit your city. The Secretary of State has told me of your warm welcome and hospitality. I also recall the very warm welcome you extended to President Nixon.
- Mrs. Taqla: I want you to have this papyrus with your name on it in hieroglyphics. There is also one for Mrs. Ford. I am sorry to miss her.
- President: Thank you very much. She is on her way to New York City today but she will be very grateful, and very sorry to have missed you.
- Mr. Touni: I also want you to have a copy of my book on the history of ancient Egypt.
- President: Thank you, I shall treasure it. Now, there is about three minutes in which I would be glad to talk and answer any questions you might have.
- Dr. Mohie el-Din: We understand you are going to give Israel more arms. We hope the amount will be limited.
- President: You can be sure we will analyze this thing very carefully. No decisions have been made. We are saying to everyone, hold off so we can work for peace and not for war. So we will be very careful.
- Kissinger: This lady has two questions for you (referring to Mrs. Taqla).
- Mrs. Taqla: I love the U. S. so much that I hope, for the best interest of the US, that you will be running again.
- President: Despite the rumors you may hear, I definitely intend to run. I have not filed my name officially since once this happens, there are all sorts of restrictions and regulations to follow. But you can be sure that I will run again.

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Mrs. Taqla:

My second question concerns aid. Is it possible for Congress to vote aid on a contingency basis so that it is not marked for a single country, but can be spent at the discretion of the President?

President:

We have very little flexibility left today compared to the past. In one or two instances we have some slight flexibility and we can and will use that to achieve certain objectives.

[Kissinger leaves the room.]

Mr. Gomaa:

Do the people of the U.S. know the Arabs really want peace?

President:

I believe there is a far greater understanding of the Arab position than before. It is extremely important for people like yourselves from other Arab countries to visit the U.S. in order to eliminate misunderstandings of the Arab people. The situation is better, there is more understanding than two or three years ago, but you cannot afford to rest on what has been done thus far. Groups like yours and the Arab Ambassadors will need to travel extensively and work hard in the weeks ahead in this country.

Ambassador
Ghorbal:

I am glad you also mentioned the importance of efforts by others. There is indeed much more which needs to be done. We are only at the beginning. The fact that so many members of your Congress have gone to Egypt has made things better.

President:

I can assure you that is the case. Once you see a country and meet its people and its leaders, your impression is totally different. Let me thank you again for myself and Mrs. Ford and Susan.

[President leaves Cabinet office at 10:30 a.m.]

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