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1973/09/05

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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TOP SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MR 01-76 #5; OSD et al. 4/20/04 et seq. 3/8/04

by dee NARA Date 8/10/04

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and
Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs
Dr. James Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
General John A. Wickham, Jr., Military Assistant
to the Secretary of Defense
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: September 5, 1973
8:00 a.m. (breakfast)

PLACE: The Pentagon

Schlesinger: Our people
..... They are therefore at a disadvantage. Can we tell our people?

Kissinger: I am worried about leaks.

Cotton: could cost more.

Kissinger: What could string it out the longest?

Kissinger: The French talks went well. The French have good ideas about
..... [Discussion] The real quid pro quo is the basic orientation of
French policy. Galley said he understood but it would take them time.

Schlesinger: Pompidou is dying.

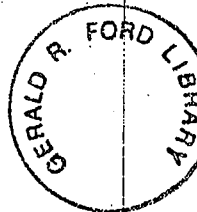
Kissinger: Brandt is closer to [Swedish Premier Olof] Palme than Pompidou.
Egon Bahr would get our support for a neutral united Germany and then get
us out. Don't conclude anything with Galley in September.

I will send you a transcript of my talks.

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Clements is too much of a bull in a china shop.
.....

Schlesinger: I agree 98%. Clements would just hold hands. I think we must keep the Persian Gulf issues away from the Arab-Israeli conflict. I would just send Clements to the Gulf area.

Kissinger: But do you think he can be controlled? He will just go out and do what he wants anyway.

Schlesinger: Let me test Clements in Korea. He goofed in Japan.

Kissinger: And in the Persian-Arabian Gulf.

Schlesinger: Let's talk contingency plans. The Iranians could take Kuwait but not cross the Gulf.

Kissinger: The Shah wants to know if the F-14 and F-15 mix. Rabin says he wouldn't have the F-14.

Schlesinger: We are running out of money for Cambodia. I would like to go to Stennis and ask him to let DOD draw down its ammunition account for the next year.

Kissinger: What are the disadvantages?

Schlesinger: None.

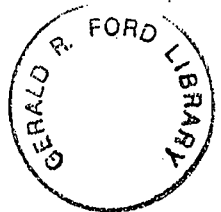
Kissinger: Okay.

Schlesinger: Australia.

Kissinger: I agree.

Schlesinger: I would like to cool them a bit. There is an ANZUS intelligence conference. I would like to say to Kird thanks but Australia hasn't responded. I would like to say thanks, but until Australia makes a decision, a US answer would be premature.

Kissinger: Fine. Be careful, because Green will leak. Anything we do should be a response to provocation. Can you wait until the middle of next week?



Schlesinger: Iceland. The British Ambassador doesn't think a new agreement could be gotten through Iceland parliament. This is different from the US Ambassador's assessment.

Kissinger: I think we should stay out of it.

Schlesinger: I agree.

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On Germany: Scheel and Leber are okay. Schmidt maybe, but the old German national Bolshevism is more compatable with the CDU than the SPD.

Schlesinger: The French are important.

SALT. DOD is ready on the ideas I outlined.

Kissinger: Okay, but hold now on the old position.

Schlesinger: Security assistance. We are in trouble. We don't have enough money for everybody.
.....

Kissinger: Okay. Can I sell this to the Chinese? When will you announce?

Schlesinger: It doesn't have to be announced. I want to go to Germany and Turkey.

Kissinger: Good, go to Greece also.

Schlesinger: Should we play the British along more? Let them know they have a clear shot at MIRV?

Kissinger: I told Sykes it was 51-49 with the President inclined to go to bat for it.



Schlesinger: Security Assistance. State and DOD have been at each other's throats for five years.

Kissinger: That will stop. What do you think of Tarr?

Schlesinger: He has brains but no drive or foreign policy sense.

Kissinger: What should be done?

Schlesinger: Stop the bickering at the middle levels.

