

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
General William C. Westmoreland
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, March 13, 1975
12:40 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

President: You look good. Have you lost some weight?

Westmoreland: A little. I am here for a doctor's checkup. My doctor says I can play golf and tennis eventually.

President: I played golf with Bob Hope the other day.

Westmoreland: I can do almost anything. I run on a treadmill for 20 minutes.

President: Have you had any previous problem?

Westmoreland: No. No heredity, blood pressure or anything. But it happened.

President: Have you moved into your new home?

Westmoreland: We move in this May. A man came in with an offer to rent I couldn't refuse.

President: I tried to get Bette to agree to buy a place at Hilton Head. I haven't convinced her.

Westmoreland: You should. It is a nice area. We would be glad to have you. Your brother is there, isn't he?



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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By let, NARA, Date 1/24/09

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

President: Yes. How far is it from Charleston?

Westmoreland: About 20 minutes.

President: How is the Kuwati problem coming?

Westmoreland: Okay, but the Jewish community is getting into the act.

President: Why?

Westmoreland: It is a matter of principle -- the Middle East conflict. I don't think they can sustain it.

President: Is it like Hilton Head?

Westmoreland: Smaller and more exclusive. It is adjacent to Seabrook Colony and similar.

President: We are having trouble getting Congress to act responsibly.

Westmoreland: Our most important commodity is our credibility. It is tragic; it's reminiscent of the days of the rise of Hitler in Germany. The North Vietnamese are the Prussians of Asia. Sihanouk is not the answer.

President: They are making him. Someone is in the center of the stage. They are trying to do something to avoid the blame.

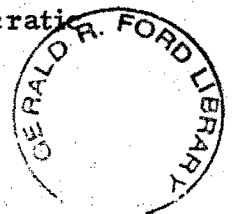
Westmoreland: Hanoi is behind it and they understand only force. If we could mine Haiphong and bomb Hanoi, they would change right away.

President: Unfortunately, we can't.

Westmoreland: I feel deeply for you and wish I could help. We did get a Republican Governor elected.

President: I wish it had been the same party but a different man.

Westmoreland: He is a good man. I will support him. I won all the Districts but Charleston and lost that 10 to 1 because of the Council on Foreign Relations. There is a strong John Birch effort there. The newspapers did me a disservice -- they gave me a two-to-one lead, so people went to the polls thinking I didn't need their vote. So they voted in the Democratic primary -- you can't vote in both, but you can in either.



President: Did you think Edwards would win?

Westmoreland: I thought so when Ravenal was barred and wouldn't support the Democrats. It was a mess and opened the doors for Edwards.

President: How does he get along with the legislation?

Westmoreland: He gets along with people. He knows nothing about budgets and management -- he is a dentist.

I will help him to the extent I can. The Atomic Energy Commission owns a lot of property at Savannah. I talked to Seamons about some projects on energy -- solar, atomic, etc.

The doctors are delighted with my condition.

President: Do you have a lot of exercise?

Westmoreland: I can do virtually anything but have to build up to it.

President: We had talked...

Westmoreland: I guess President Nixon was pretty well boxed in on that. Haig called me.

President: I couldn't do anything -- it had gone so far. It has worked out pretty well.

I will keep my eyes and ears open for some part-time commission. There isn't a PFIAB vacancy now, but one may come up.

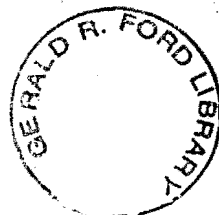
Westmoreland: I understand there are not prescribed numbers.

President: True, but Anderson says if it gets too big it becomes unwieldy. But as we move ahead I will keep you in mind.

Westmoreland: Good. I have an intelligence background.

President: We are having a hassle on intelligence.

Westmoreland: Yes. Walters told me. It is a shame.



President: It didn't happen recently. Most of it happened between 1960 and 1970. The Senate Committee has asked for a whole shopping list of data. The House is not organized yet. Then there is the Rockefeller Commission. They are only on domestic stuff thus far. The violations in the domestic area are not so serious as the papers say. They must be looked into, but they don't appear too serious. We are waiting for the Rockefeller report.

Where do you stay?

Westmoreland: Walter Reed. Can I mention two things? As Chief of Staff I crystalballed in 1970 where we might be going. I foresaw this recession and I had a study made of a 1976 CCC. In a recession, young men are laid off first; they're roaming the streets, etc. I thought the Army could play a role in an updated CCC. Some of the officers and NCO's being riffed could establish mobile work camps. They could move around to improve the ecology. They would get modest pay. Those with previous educations would get part-time schooling.

President: Is that in the Department of Defense now?

Westmoreland: Yes. It is in file. Callaway probably doesn't know it but I will mention it.

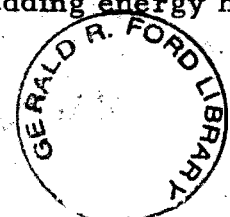
President: Tell him to look at it and send it over.

Westmoreland: It may require updating but it is a sound study. I could play an advisor role if it is implemented. I found great confusion among people as to what they should do about the economy -- spend or save.

President: Economists have the same problem.

Westmoreland: If there was a more simple way to spell it out so the people would know what to do.

President: Last Fall, not one economist of all the ones we had in told us we would see a precipitant drop within three months. We now have inflation down to 7.2 percent but meanwhile unemployment has gone from 5.5 to 8.2 and probably will go higher. So in January we had to put the emphasis on recovery, but with concern that too much shift would start the inflation again. Also it is the unanimous judgment we had to do something in energy: to cut down consumption and stimulate development of alternative sources. The confusion of changing from inflation to recession and adding energy has led to this confused situation.



Westmoreland: It is a difficult question to answer.

President: That's right. We are making headway on our energy plan. We started with 535 plans on the Hill; they are now down four or five. It is not very good, but we're getting better.

Westmoreland: I thought your energy plan was a very good one. It is a nice balance.

President: We worked hard on it. It is a good plan -- if we can get Congress to respond without tearing it up. Congress has some good ideas but not a comprehensive program. I hope we can come out with a good program. We are working well with Ullman especially, also with Wright and Pastore. The impact of the recession has put pressure on the oil price. But the Saudis have cut back production to take up the slack.

I was pleased at the progress on the Volunteer Army.

Westmoreland: The recession has helped that. They have made real progress.

President: The elimination of a 2-year enlistment will reduce the turnover.

Callaway has done a fine job -- and enjoys it. We asked him about a new job but he wasn't interested.

How are your children?

Westmoreland: My oldest is married, I have a boy in college and the youngest is in high school. The oldest one is out in the wilderness in Maine; they built a log cabin and a craft shop -- she is a pottery maker and he a cabinet maker. They are pioneers like your boy Jack.

President: Steve is the one -- he was accepted by Duke but wanted to be a ranch hand for a year. He looks after 500 calves. He promised to go back to school next year -- probably Utah State. Jack graduates from there this year and hopes to get into environmental consulting work. These two are dedicated to the West. Mike is in Divinity School. Susan will go to Mt. Vernon College. She is not academically inclined.

Westmoreland: Like my oldest.



1545

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND, USA (Ret)

Thursday, March 13, 1975

12:45 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger



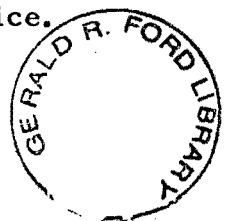
I. PURPOSE

Informal courtesy call to allow General Westmoreland to pay his respects and discuss his opportunities for further government service.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: General Westmoreland, former Commander of U. S. forces in Vietnam and Chief of Staff of the Army, retired from active duty and a distinguished career of more than 36 years in 1972. Since that time he has made his home in South Carolina where he was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for Governor in 1974. Last fall the General suffered a heart attack while on a visit to California and was hospitalized for several weeks. It is believed, however, that he has ended his convalescence and has made a satisfactory recovery.

In recent weeks the General has indicated an interest in returning to public service in Washington in a position that would take advantage of his military background and expertise. He has mentioned service on your Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in this regard. George Shultz has been appointed to the vacancy left by John Connally. There are therefore no vacancies on the Board at this time unless you wish to enlarge the Board membership (list of members at Tab A). A vacancy could come up later and there are other boards and commissions which might profit from the General's service.



- B. Participants: General Westmoreland and General Scowcroft.
- C. Press Arrangements: Meeting to be announced; White House photographer only.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. It is good to see you looking so fit and to welcome you back to Washington. I hope that the pace in South Carolina has been less hectic than it was at the Pentagon.
2. [If the General's service on the PFIAB is raised] Your background and experience in intelligence would be extremely valuable to me on the PFIAB. It is unfortunate that the Board is full at this time. George Shultz succeeded Governor Connally last fall and there have been no vacancies since.
3. The country would benefit greatly from your return to public life and it would be a favor to me personally to be able to call on you in any number of ad hoc advisory roles. Would you be in a position to return to Washington permanently or even periodically?
4. I very much appreciate your coming in and I hope you will stay in touch in the months ahead. I will have Don Rumsfeld keep you posted on appropriate opportunities.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

ANDERSON, GEORGE W., JR. -- Appointed by President Nixon on May 1, 1970 to replace General Maxwell Taylor as PFIAB Chairman; former Chief of Naval Operations; former U.S. Ambassador to Portugal; presently director of several large corporations.

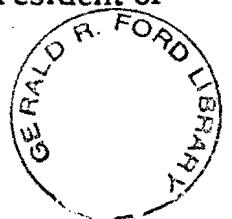
BAKER, WILLIAM O. -- Originally appointed to the Board by President Eisenhower and reappointed by each succeeding President; currently President, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated; member of the National Academy of Sciences and numerous other governmental and quasi-governmental boards and commissions.

CHERNE, LEO -- Noted Economist; presently Executive Director of the Research Institute of America, Incorporated; member of the United States Advisory Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs; member of the Board of Advisors of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and numerous other boards and commissions.

FOSTER, JOHN S., JR. -- Physicist; presently Vice President for Energy Research and Development, TRW, Incorporated; former Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense; and former Director of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and Associate Director of Berkeley Laboratory.

GALVIN, ROBERT W. -- Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Motorola, Incorporated; Director of Harris Trust and Savings Bank; Director and past President of the Electronic Industries Association; and former member of the President's Commission on International Trade and Investment.

GRAY, GORDON -- Publisher; Director of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and several other large corporations; former Secretary of the Army, Special Assistant to the President (Eisenhower) for National Security Affairs, Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization; former Chancellor and President of the University of North Carolina.



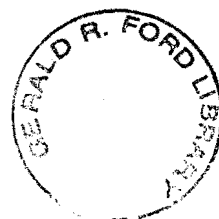
LAND, EDWIN H. -- Inventor of the Land Polaroid camera; presently Board Chairman and President of Polaroid Corporation; member of the National Academy of Sciences and numerous other similar groups.

LUCE, CLARE BOOTHE -- Novelist and Playwright; former U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and Congresswoman from Connecticut; presently member of the White House Preservation Committee, the Academy of Political Science, the American Institute for Foreign Trade, and numerous other boards and commissions.

SHULTZ, GEORGE P. -- Former Secretary of the Treasury and Assistant to the President (1972-74), Director of the Office of Management and Budget (1970-72), and Secretary of Labor (1969-70); economist; educator; member American Economic Association, National Academy of Arbitrators, Industrial Relations Research Association; presently Executive Vice President of Bechtel Corporation.

TELLER, EDWARD -- Physicist who played a major role in the development of the first atomic bomb, and has made important contributions in the fields of chemical physics, molecular physics, nuclear physics and quantum theory. He has been associated with the University of California since 1952, where he currently holds the position of University Professor of Physics and Associate Director of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

BYERS, WHEATON -- Executive Secretary of the Board.



- Did anyone else get a list of demands?

- Harry Demands -

P/Westmoreland

13 Mar 75

P You look good. How you lost some weight
W A little. Here of me drinking. Do my dear play golf
& tennis eventually.

P I played golf w/ Bet Hope other day.
W I can do almost anything. Treachery for 20 min
I have you had any previous job?

W No. No health, blood pressure anything, but
it happened

P Have you moved in your new home

W This ^{way} ~~year~~. A man come in w/ an offer
to rent I couldn't refuse.

P I tried to get Betty to agree to buy a place at
Hilton Head. Haven't convinced her.

W You should. A nice area. He glad to have
you. Your brother is there?

P Yes. How far is it from Charleston.

W About 20 min.

P How is the Kwanter job coming.

W OK, but Jewish country is getting into it.

P why

W Matter of principle - HE exploit. Don't think
they can sustain it.

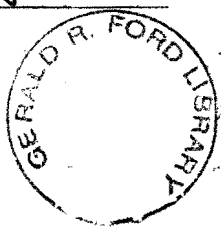
P Just like H. Heil.

W Smaller & more exclusive. It all point to ^{Seahawk} ~~Sept~~
Colony & similar.

P We're trying to make getting easy to get away.

W Our most trip. Empty is an exhibit
It tragic - remnant of a change of view
of Hitler in Germany. He & Co are a possession
of Asia. Seahawk is not - answer

P They are making him - someone is - a center
of a stage. They are trying to do something to



around home.

W Haven't behind it & they understood only free.
If we could raise Hartung & Bobb Haven't, they
would change right away.

P Unfortunately we can't.

W I feel deeply for you & wish I could help.
Did get a Report from school.

P Wish it had been some party but did run

W A good man. I would support him. I was all
convinced but Charles ~~at~~ last that 10-1 because
of C.F.R. ~~It~~ There is strong John Birch spot there.
Newspapers did me damage - they gave me a
2-1 lead, so people thought I
didn't need my vote, so they voted ~~them~~ primary -
you can't vote in both, but you can either.

P Did you think Edwards would win?

W I think so when Roosevelt was named & wouldn't
support him. It was a mess & spread love for
Edwards.

P How is getting along w/ legis?

W He gets along w/ people. He knows nothing
about budgets & money - a dentist.

I will help him to extent I can. He's own
lot of property at 50000000. I talked to Summers about
some projects one thing - solar, atomic, etc.

Dr. are delighted w/ my condition

P Do you have lot of exercise

W I can do virtually anything but don't want to
it.

P We had talked . . .

W I guess P. Wicks had was pretty well boxed in
on that. Hair called me.



P I couldn't do anything - it had gone so far. It was worked out pretty well.

I will keep my eyes & ears open for some part time work. There isn't a P.F.A.B. working now, but one may come up.

W I understand there are not prescribed it's

P True, but Anderson says if it gets too big it becomes unworkable. But as we move ahead I will keep you in mind

W Good. I have an initial background

P we have a busload of material

W Yes. Walter told me - it's a scheme

P Didn't happen recently. Most happened but 1960 + 70. Smith Critch has asked for a whole shopping list of data. House not designed yet. Then there is Roche Crum. They only domestic this far.

Ventures in domestic area not so serious as papers say. ~~W~~ They must be looked into, but they don't appear too serious. Waiting for Roche report. Where do you stay?

W Walter had. Can I mention it?

As e/s & crystal ball in 1970 when we were going to go. I fear on this mission & I had study made 1976 C.C. In mission, young men laid off 1st, working streets, etc. & that Army could play a role in an updated C.C. Some of the officers & NCO's being retrained could start mobile work camps. More would improve ecology. They would get modest pay. Those w/poor education would get part time schooling.

P Is that in D.D. now?



W Yes. It is in file. Callaway prob doesn't know
it but I will mention it.

P Tell him to look at it & send it over.

W It may require updating but it's a sound study.
I could play an advisory role if it is implemented.
I found great ~~injection~~ ^{injection} among people as to what
they should do about - energy - spend or save

P E committee have some part.

W If there was some simple way to spell it out
~~the~~ people would know what to do.

P Last fall, not 1 economist of all what we talk
is we would have precip drop w/in 3 mos.
We now have inflation down to 7.2, but unemployment
has gone from 5.5 to 6.2 & prob
higher. So in Jan we had to put emphasis on
recovery, but w/ concern that too much shift would
start inflation again. Also for the unanimous
judgment we had to do something in energy: cut
down, & stimulate alt. sources. The comparison of
changing from inflation to recession & adding
energy has led to this proposal fit.

W It is by question to answer.

P That's right. We are working heavily on an
energy plan. We started w/ 535 on Hill -
they now down to 4-5. Not very good, but
we getting better.

W I think your energy plan was a very good one. True
balance, but

P We worked hard on it. It's a good plan - if we can get
Congress report w/o tearing it up. Congress has some
good ideas but not a very cohesive prog. I hope
we can come out w/a good prog. We working well



as/ Wilson exp - also w/ Wright - Postal. Impact
of recession has put pressure on pro. Kent Smith
have not had to take up a slack.

I was pleased to pay on volunteer army
W. Recession has helped that. They want make real pay

P The elimination of 2 yr. distribution will ~~be~~ reduce
turnover.

Collins has done a fine job - enjoying it. We
asked him about new job but he wasn't
interested

How children?

W Oldest married, boy in college, youngest in
high school. Oldest are out in wilderness in Maine,
built log cabin & a craft shop - she is pottery
maker & he a cabinet maker. They promise the
young boy Jack

P Steve is a one - accepted by Duke but wanted to
be a ranch hand for a year. Worked after 500 calves - he
promised to go back to school next year - prob about
state. Jack graduates from there this year &
hopes to get in law school. ~~is~~ consulting work.
There 2 are dedicated to West, Mike is in Divinity
school. Susan will go to Kent Union College. She
- not acad. inclined

W Like my oldest.