

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to  
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, November 4, 1975  
10:56 - 11:28 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Kissinger: Whatever is in the press, I am not talking.

The President: Nobody here is either. Each paper is playing it [the President's press conference of November 3] differently.

How did I play the Chinese question?

Kissinger: That was fine. But we have a massive problem. We told them we had to cut down the length of the visit. They said okay. Then we said their communique draft was unacceptable. They seemed very relaxed about the advance. Today they come in with a brutal message.

My people think several things are involved. They may think the trip announcement may appear to cover the internal changes here; the Newsweek articles; and Schlesinger, whom they always praised. Now, do we cancel? What about Indonesia and the Philippines? How do we play it?

My view is they should cancel, not us. I don't exclude that they may diddle us along. An option is to play it cool, and propose no announcement until the 13th.

The President: How about Indonesia and the Philippines?

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CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(3)  
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DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
NSC MEMO, 11/24/88, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES  
BY llh, NARA, DATE 6/4/04  
*State Review 3/11/04*

Kissinger: I don't see how we can postpone them. Just to make them an extension of the China trip doesn't look good.

The President: I am inclined to leave the cancelling to them.

Kissinger: In '72 Nixon wanted to cancel. Connally said no. You wouldn't get a friendly reception for sure.

The President: I think they should cancel and we should go to Indonesia and the Philippines. Anywhere else?

Kissinger: Maybe Australia and New Zealand.

The President: How about India? We can play hard ball too.

Kissinger: I am not sure about that.

The President: Or go back through the Middle East.

Kissinger: I think that is premature. And the Indians are such shits. They may not want to be used that way.

My people also think that not giving them any advance notice on Bush hurt.

The President: Let's keep cool and not cancel.

Kissinger: Why not propose an announcement on the 13th? Since we have technical arrangements to make, we will tell them we would like to know by Saturday if we can announce on the 13th. Then we could announce the Indonesia and Philippines next Monday.

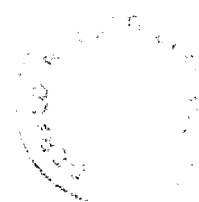
Scowcroft: If they don't respond on Saturday . . .

Kissinger: We would have to cancel.

The President: Let's proceed on that basis.

Kissinger: We have discussed the coffee agreement.

The President: Yes. We will be meeting.



Kissinger: Fahmy and I will sign the nuclear reactor agreement tomorrow. Is there anything you can tell Sadat on these changes to calm him down?

The President: He seemed okay on Sunday.

Kissinger: That was before the news stories.

The President: Daley called to congratulate the moves. He said he took some flak on Sadat but "Whatever the President wants on foreign policy, I do."

Kissinger: Be careful with the Egyptian editors -- they may embellish. Say things that are of general application to Arabs.

The Sahara is a mess. The Spanish Army is reluctant to appear being kicked out. Juan Carlos said Morocco could have the Sahara if they would call off the march, but they couldn't.

Juan Carlos has sent an emissary to me. Brent will be the private contact. I told him to keep the Army pacified. I also told him that a referendum right away was risky but it would give him elected legitimacy. I said not to let the Communists even form a party, and not to accept the Socialists but go no farther than the center.

The President: Clements came in this morning. He said he thought Jim was sick.

[There was a discussion of Schlesinger's personality and his behavior on the issues.]

✓ P/K 4 Nov 75

K Whatever is in - press, I don't believe  
P Nobody here is within. Even paper playing  
it differently.

Have don't I play a Chinese question

K Fine. But we have a massive part.  
We told them we had to cut down a visit.  
They said OK. Then we said their own  
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relaxed about advance. Today they came in  
w/ a brutal message.

My people think several things are involved.  
The announcement may appear to cover the  
internal changes here; the Wenzhou  
articles; and Schles - who they prevail.  
Now - do we carry? What about Indos, & Phil?  
How do we play it.

My view is they should carry, not us. I  
don't exclude they can carry details so change.  
One option is to play it card, progress  
commitment til 13.

P How about Indos & Phil?

K I don't see how we can postpone them.  
Just to make them an extension of China  
trips doesn't look good.

P I inclined to leave camp to them.

I In '72 Nixon wanted to camp. (usually said  
no. You couldn't get a friendly reception  
for some.

P I think they should camp & we should go to



3 - Jerry - Time for coffee party.

to Indro & Phil, Angewaters also?

K Zougele Coast + NZ.

P How about India? We can play hand ball too.

K I am not sure about that

P Or go back there + NZ

K I think that is premature. I don't think the Indians are such idiots. They may not want to be used that way.

My people do think not giving a chance either on Bush hunt.

P Let's keep cards not comp

KX K Why not propose announce on 13. Since we have tech arrangements, we like to know by Saturday if ever announce on 13. Then we could announce - Indro & Phil next Monday.

S If they don't respond on Saturday...

K we would have to comp.

P Let's proceed on that basis

K We have discussed a coffee agreement

P Yes, we will be meeting.

K Fabian & I will sign a nuclear reactor tomorrow.

Anything you can tell Sadat on these changes - to calm him down.

P He seemed OK on Sunday

K That refers to news stories

P Daly called to congratulate + moves. Said he took some flack on Sadat but whatever

\* George Brown to see PMS

c Press wants on FD, I do.

R Be careful w/ E. debtors - They may embolish.

Say things of great application to Arab  
Sahara a mess. Spanish army reluctant  
to appear backed out. Juan Carlos said  
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Carlos shot mission to me. Went with to  
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(Discussion of Schlegel's personality  
& behavior on issues)

