

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE AND TIME: Friday, July 16, 1976
10:33 - 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECTS: SALT; Lebanon

Kissinger: On SALT, the basic decision you have is whether you want an agreement by November. The second is which of your advisors you will believe. DOD and Ikle will tell you if you just hang tough, the Soviets will cave. My impression is Brown is softening but Don is dug in. He has sent us a draft note for Brezhnev which not only doesn't move forward but withdraws all previous proposals.

The President: The Soviets would then withdraw all their previous concessions.

Kissinger: Defense simply pockets all the Soviet concessions. [He hands the SALT options chart at Tab A to the President. There is a general discussion of the chart.]

I have no doubt the reductions option is more in our national interest.

The President: The most saleable proposal is the one which cuts the total to 2, 150 or so.

[There is more general discussion.]

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BY lha, NARA DATE 1/29/04
State Review 3/13/04

I will study it over the weekend. I think I might talk man-to-man to George Brown.

Kissinger: On the Lebanese evacuation, it looks as if we can do it by convoy.

The President: I read a story about the route in the Christian Science Monitor. It isn't easy.

Kissinger: The Egyptians are unhappy we are doing it because they think it will encourage the Syrians -- or it's in connivance with the Syrians. The Syrians want to know if we are sending them a signal.

The PLO is in bad shape. We didn't plan it but we have broken the Arab united front.

The President: How is Asad's position holding?

Kissinger: He has domestic problems. They blew up one of his Ministers the other day.

The President: How about Hussein?

Kissinger: The Saudis have made a formal offer on the Hawk, and Rifai is out, thank God.



PK
16 July 76

K On Salt, a basic decision you have is whether you want an agreement by Dec. The 2nd is which of your advisers you will believe. DoD & Jke will tell you if you just hang tough & Sec will come. My impression is Brown is ~~repeating~~ but ~~he~~ is doing in. He has sent a draft note to ~~the~~ ^{artophy} ~~the~~ ~~state~~ ~~more~~ ~~favorable~~ ~~but~~ ~~of~~ ~~changes~~ ~~all~~ ~~previous~~ ~~proposals~~

P The Sec would ~~draw~~ ^{draw} all their previous concessions

K Def. simply prohibits all Sec concessions
CHAK should Salt options about to P)
(Gen'l discussion of a Chart)

I have no doubt a reduction option is more in our
national interest.

P. The most reasonable proposal is one which
costs a total to 2150 or so.
(More good discussion)

Will study over a weekend. I think I
~~will~~ might talk man to man to Brown.

K On a Lebanese track, it looks as if we can do
it by evening

P I read a story about a route in a CSM. It isn't
easy.

K The Egyptians are unhappy we are doing it since they
think it will encourage - or is in ^{conjunction w/} ~~the~~
Syrians. The Syrians want to know if we
are sending them a signal.

The Arab is in bad shape. We didn't plan it
but we have broken a Arab united front.

P How is Assad's position holding?

K He has domestic problems. They blew up one of his
ministers the other day

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3Y 100 NARA DATE 7/29/04



P How about Kippin?

K The Swedes have made a formal offer on - Hunk
+ Refin is out, thank God.

