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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
Dr. James Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
Rep. Otto E. Passman
John O. Marsh, Counselor to the President
Max Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 20, 1975
9:45 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

[General Scowcroft entered late.]

Passman: Conte is the key to it. In a matter of days, there will be nothing left for Cambodia. If you could just get Conte down here and twist his arm. I can get you three more votes if you will come in with this assured.

President: What about the 300 for Vietnam?

Passman: That's Mahon. But Conte is the key to it. I think I have the votes to move it to the full Committee. Morgan said if I got Cambodia in the bill, he would support a vote.

President: [went through the items on the amendment] Schools and a hospital.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guideline
By lit, NARA, Date 1/29/00

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

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Passman: This is my pet project. They really need this.

President: If Cambodia gets knocked out of the bill, I can't support this bill.

Passman: You don't have to support me because it is in the authorization. You are not doing me a favor. Your people have said we have to have it. They are just waiting for Kissinger to get back.

President: But between us, if it comes down without Cambodia, I won't accept it.

Passman: There is no connection between the appropriation and the supplemental. This is my advice to get it down. You could never get just Cambodia alone. But with Israel and Portugal (for Conte), I have a chance.

President: But these people must know if they want their pound of flesh on Israel, I must insist on what we want.

Passman: I wouldn't kid you. There is only one chance in 10 of getting it -- and I think I will have to cut it maybe to 150. My friends say they will kill me. But unless you can get Conte backed off.

President: I will call him. Get him down here. How soon can you do it?

Passman: I am frightened. There is only 1 in 10 chance but I'll go down fighting. Several people say they won't support less than 3 billion. There is no way to get that now.

President: Will you get Egypt 250?

Passman: I will have 300 for Israel, Egypt for 225, Syria 50...

Kissinger: You can't cut Egypt. The loss of face would kill Sadat.

Passman: What if I build it up somewhere else?

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President: If we build up Israel, and cut Egypt, the perception is terrible.

Kissinger: Sadat is hanging on by his nails.

Passman: I hear you. But if you give Egypt 250, you have to have 325 for Israel.

Kissinger: We reluctantly agree.

Passman: I will carry the ball, but I have to cut it enough to get the votes. Your witnesses Parker and Murphy made a strong case for the extra money. If you take out Israel, you wouldn't get 150 votes for the Hill.

President: How much for Syria?

Passman: I can't get more than 50.

Kissinger: It will cost us in Syria because of this jealousy of Egypt. Not so much that they need the money; its the perception.

Passman: This is the most important meeting of my career. If you need it, I will put it in.

President: Henry is going over there for serious negotiations. If you pull the rug out of Syria, we are in trouble.

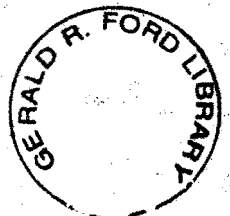
Passman: I'll do it. But you better give me a letter. And I will have to make adjustments elsewhere.

President: Your markup will come within a week.

Passman: Probably next Tuesday. I will have a closed markup but it will be public by the end of next week.

President: Let's assume this goes through the House. If we can get the Senate to make adjustments in other projects, will you cooperate?

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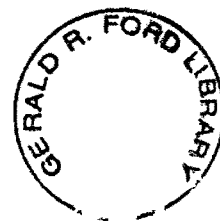
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Passman: The Senate doesn't do its homework. I've got to fight for my bill. I will support the House.

President: You will cooperate with us too.

Passman: I will consent to everything in the Middle East, but I will cut the hell out of it elsewhere.

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20 Feb 75

(Dinner in flats)

P Carter is a boy & it's in a matter of days, there will be nothing left for Curabach. If you could just get Carter down here & trust his name. I can get you 2 more votes if you will stand in w/ this assembly.

P What about fees for DR.

P That Wheeler, but Carter is a key to it. I think I have a letter to name it to a free Carter. Morgan said if I got Curabach in a bill, he would support a rule.

P (Carter then a strong on a assembly)
Schroder's help.

P This is my pet project. They really need this.

P If this gets ^{embodied} knocked out for bill, I can't support this bill.

P You don't have to support me cause it is a matter. You are doing me a favor. Your people have said we have to have it. They just want to get back.

P But let us, if it comes down w/ a Curabach, I won't accept.

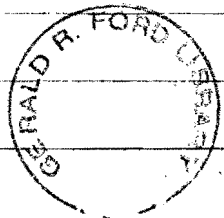
P There is no connection of last offer & replacement - this is my choice to get it done. You could have got just Curabach alone. But w/ I + Pat (for Carter) I have a chance.

P But these people must know if they want their pound of flesh or I, I must insist on what we want.

P I would not kill you. Only have 1 in 10 chance of getting it - and I think I will have to cut it maybe to 150. My friends say they will kill me. But unless you can get Carter hooked up.

P I will call him

P Get him down here.



P How soon can you get it.

P I forgot to mention. Only 1 in 10 chance but I'll go down fighting. Several say they won't suggest both them & bid. No way to get it that low.

P Will you get E 250?

P I don't know I for 300, E for 225, Syria 50. ...

K You can't cut E. The loss of face would kill Salit

P What if I should it my conversation that? >

P I don't should up E. Cut E, a perception is terrible

K Salit hanging on by his nails.

P I hear you, but if you give E 250 you have to have 325 for I

K We will reluctantly agree

P I will carry a bill but I have to cut it enough to get votes.

→ You witnesses Paker & Murphy made a strong case for extra money.

If you take out I, you wouldn't get 150 votes for a bill.

P How much for Syria

P Can't get more than 50

K It will not go in Syria because of their feeling of E.

Not so much that they need a money, etc. perception

P This is most important part of my career. If you need it, I will put it in.

P K going over for Syria report. If you pull a rug out on Syria, we in trouble >

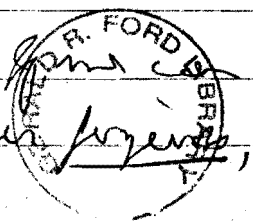
P I'll do it, but you better give me a letter. And I will have to make adjustments elsewhere.

P You monkey will come as in a week

P Not next Tues. I will have used monkey but it be public by end next week.

P Let's assume this goes thru & House get Senate to make adjustments in other projects,

START
K



will you say.

P The Senate doesn't do its homework. I've got a fight
for my bill. I will support ~~the~~ House

P You will ^{carry it} support me too.

P I will commit to every thing in ME, but will not
hold out of it elsewhere.

