

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GDS

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

April 8, 1976

SUBJECT: Niehous Kidnapping and Owens-Illinois Expropriation

PARTICIPANTS: Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
 Senator Robert Taft  
 Edwin Dodd, President, Owens-Illinois  
 John Marsh  
 Stephen Low, NSC Staff *SL*

TIME AND PLACE: 2:00 p.m., Brent Scowcroft's Office

Mr. Dodd reviewed the history of the Niehous case, from his kidnapping on February 27 to the events of the last two days. He described the situation as reported, adding two further points. The company had information that the Government of Venezuela had been in direct contact with the kidnapers without informing the company. It was only when the GOV completely rejected the kidnapers' demands through this separate confidential channel that it became evident to the company that it must take steps if Niehous' life was to be saved.

Mr. Dodd also made clear that the company had discussed the possibility of publication of the manifesto in the foreign press with the GOV which had responded, "We would frown on your publishing it elsewhere." Mr. Dodd said that the company understood the GOV could not approve publication. It had interpreted this relatively mild reply to mean that it would receive a rap on the knuckles, but nothing more. Therefore, the company did not expect as severe punishment as it received. He said he understood that President Perez could not publicly or totally back down from his initial statement and asked for US Government help in getting the President to moderate his position.

General Scowcroft explained the difficulties of dealing with the problems of Niehous' safety, discouraging further kidnapping, and the expropriation issue. He noted that Ambassador Shlaudeman had met with President Perez on Wednesday evening, expressing our displeasure with the use



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DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 12058, SEC. 3.5  
 NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State review 3/6/04  
 BY WJ, NARA. DATE 7/1/04

of expropriation as a sanction against the company. He noted, however, President Perez felt very strongly the need to react firmly against terrorism but said that Perez had told the Ambassador that he had no desire to persecute Owens-Illinois. He told Mr. Dodd that we understood the company's problem and would be as helpful as possible.

Senator Taft asked whether expropriation for this purpose would not encourage further kidnapping and terrorism. The General fully agreed and noted that our Ambassador had made this point to President Perez.

Mr. Low pointed out the danger of any publicity being given to US representation to President Perez which would make it more difficult for him to back away from his initial position.

1b  
MH  
RH  
Lamp

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

April 13, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: STEPHEN LOW <sup>SL</sup>

SUBJECT: Niehous Kidnapping and Owens-Illinois Expropriation

Attached is a memorandum of conversation covering your meeting with Edwin Dodd, the President of Owens-Illinois, and Senator Taft.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the memorandum.

• Approve WJH Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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WJH 7/1/04

# NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NU	R
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
4	13	4	13	18	7602163	

INITIAL ACTION O

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: SECSTATE \_\_\_\_\_ S/S \_\_\_\_\_ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCOWCROFT X \_\_\_\_\_ SECDEF \_\_\_\_\_ LOU NO FORM NODIS \_\_\_\_\_  
 HYLAND \_\_\_\_\_ DCI \_\_\_\_\_ X REF \_\_\_\_\_ C EYES ONLY EXDIS \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ STATE EXSEC \_\_\_\_\_ S CODEWORD \_\_\_\_\_  
 OTHER LOW \_\_\_\_\_ TS SENSITIVE \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Memcon of Scowcroft mtg w/ Dodd & Tost re Nichols Kidnapping & Owens Illinois Expropriation

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION					REC CY FOR
	ACTION	CONCURRENCE	COORDINATE	INFO	
ADV CYS S'CROFT/WGH					
STAFF SECRETARY					
CONGRESSIONAL					
ECONOMIC					
EUR/CANADA/OCEANS					
FAR EAST/PRC					
INTELLIGENCE					
LATIN AMERICA					
MID EAST/NO. AFRICA					
NSC PLANNING					
PROGRAM ANALYSIS					
SCIENTIFIC					
SUB-SAH/AFRICA/UN					

**ACTION REQUIRED**

MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMO FOR PRES. \_\_\_\_\_

REPLY FOR \_\_\_\_\_

APPROPRIATE ACTION. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMO \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS. \_\_\_\_\_

JOINT MEMO. \_\_\_\_\_

REFER TO \_\_\_\_\_ FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

ANY ACTION NECESSARY? \_\_\_\_\_

CONCURRENCE. \_\_\_\_\_

DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	STATUS	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	DUE	CY TO
4/13		Scraft	X	Decision (4/22)		Janka
4-15		NSC's	C	Noted by Scraft		

NSC/S INSTR

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_ NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INDEXING: \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED X

**MICROFILM & FILE ROOMS**

M/F/D \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

APR 13 1976

CRT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

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