

Approved by S - JCovey,
11/4/75

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

Date 11/4/75
Initial JHW

2098

DATE: October 4, 1975
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: The Secretary's Office

SUBJECT: Meeting with Ambassador Saxbe

PARTICIPANTS: The Secretary
Ambassador Saxbe
Assistant Secretary Alfred L. Atherton, Jr.
Dennis Kux, NEA/INS (Notetaker)

NODIS REVIEW	
Cat. A -	Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. E -	Transferred to O/FADRC
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Reviewed by:	<u>Jecum</u>
Date:	<u>9/18</u> 19 <u>78</u>

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Saxbe: ^{PDIP}
^{XF}
^{US} I want to congratulate you on your trip to the Middle East. I enjoyed reading of your achievements from the end of the earth. This has created a favorable impression with the Indians.

The Secretary: ^{Comp. memo}
^{visits}
^{tin} I looked at the Joint Commission schedule. Tuesday is a bad day for me.

Atherton: ^{dip. dir.}
^{for. assist}
^{mil. sales}
^{mil. equip} But the actual meeting is on Monday. On Tuesday there is only the signing ceremony before the lunch.

The Secretary: I won't be able to make the signing ceremony since I have to testify on the Hill in the morning. I would like it moved to after the lunch.

Saxbe: The schedule looks good to me. I am especially pleased that the President will be seeing Chavan. Chavan is getting good treatment and he will be happy.

The Secretary: Is this wrong? Are we making a mistake?

Saxbe: No. The Indians are trying to be nice to us. They have kept quiet and they want better relations.

The Secretary: This proves that morality has nothing to do with things.

(Drafting Office and Officer)
NEA/INS:DKK:ei
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[Redacted]

-GDS-

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Saxbe: The Indians still believe that no good deed should go unpunished. They really have problems, however.

The Secretary: Why did they want you as Ambassador?

Saxbe: They appreciate realism. It is good to tell them that they have nothing we want. If they don't deal with us, they will be stuck with the Russians and this makes them uncomfortable. On aid, if we do it, it is O.K. but if it falls apart on the Hill, this will be embarrassing.

The Secretary: I don't think it will get through the Congress.

Atherton: So far everything appears to be on the rails.

The Secretary: Is aid a good idea?

Saxbe: No, but we have telegraphed it and I don't see how we can stop it at this point. If we do it, we should put together a program that looks like it is really humanitarian. I would like to hook it to food. They need grain storage capacity badly. We could help build some storage facilities in the ports where they are importing U.S. food.

The Secretary: Good, that will make it easier to sell to Congress.

Saxbe: The Indians won't object. They want the aid mainly as symbolic. They are not concerned what we do with a small amount of money. Therefore, if our interest is humanitarian and we want to sell grain, what better way than through developing better terminal facilities?

The Secretary: That sounds reasonable to me.

Saxbe: We have a chance to sell some military equipment if we invite the Chief of the Indian Air Force who wants to come here.

The Secretary: What kind of equipment?

Saxbe: Radios. This will make it harder for them to complain about our sales to Pakistan.

The Secretary: That's a good idea. I see no problem.

Saxbe: The U.S. and the French are competing for the sale. I think the U.S. has the edge.

The Secretary: I see no problem in inviting the Air Chief here.

Saxbe: Now about food aid, we have told the Indians they would get 500,000 tons. I don't think this amount should be cut back to 400,000 tons.

The Secretary: Have we cut it back?

Atherton: EB says we can only do 400,000 tons for India at present budget levels.

Saxbe: My mission since I have been in India has been to reduce the unpleasant language there. We have done this. They are no longer bad mouthing us. They even helped us on Puerto Rico. They have been all right on Korea. I would like to know what our next object should be.

The Secretary: What do you see?

Saxbe: I don't see any, simply to normalize relations.

The Secretary: I agree. We don't want anything from the Indians. We don't especially want their friendship. We would be happy to have it, but I see no need to pay much of a price.

Saxbe: Right now, the Commies are jumping up and down because relations are getting a bit better with us. She is in full control and the government is better off. I know we can't embrace them because of the mood here.

The Secretary: We would just as soon have democracies, but I don't see this as an object as U.S. foreign policy.

Saxbe: It is none of our business.

The Secretary: Nor is it clear that a democracy there would be any more pro-American. On the contrary.

[REDACTED]

Saxbe: If Mrs. Gandhi goes, there is no one to move in. We should say Hail Mary's every night for her. She has done all this without using the military at all. They would support her, but they haven't been used. If something were to happen to her, if she died or were voted out

The Secretary: She can't be voted out.

Saxbe: There is no one in her cabinet. They are all a bunch of Moustache Petes. They have been playing musical chairs for 20 years. Chavan is one of them.

The Secretary: Bill, I have no great words of wisdom. When I don't complain about an Ambassador, that is just about unheard of. You are taking a firm line. Not over-rating the Indians. We would like to be on friendly terms without paying much of a price. There is nothing much for us. If they go rogue elephant, they can be a nuisance.

Saxbe: They are a nuisance in places like Havana and Lima.

The Secretary: Consider that you have standing instructions to slam them if they get out of line. You don't need to hear from us.

Saxbe: They have been yelling at Ford after he made his comments about India.

The Secretary: What comments?

Atherton: He criticized the Indian emergency in an interview with the Chicago Sun Times.

The Secretary: That is those people in the White House trying to make the President look good by criticizing some place no one cares about.

Saxbe: It is hard to explain in India.

The Secretary: Should the President take it up with Chavan?

Saxbe: No, it is a hole you can't dig your way out of, better not to raise it.