

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Ambassador John Sherman Cooper,
Ambassador to GDR
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the
President

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 4, 1976
10:15 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

President: Tell me about things in East Germany. I had a couple of good talks with Honecker.

Cooper: He can't stop talking about it. He had the pictures on the first page. He told me he felt as if you had been friends for 20 years. Your telling him you and I were friends has helped me. He has really never gotten over it. May I tell him I saw you and you said best wishes?

President: You certainly may.

Cooper: I haven't seen anyone at State yet. I see Art Hartman today. But I spent Monday and Tuesday on the Hill on my own. I talked to the Republican caucus. I said things were delicate in Portugal. I mentioned Spain. I said there were dangers in both -- especially if we didn't approve the bases in Spain. We had to show we were strong -- especially because of Angola

I think I got a good response. Sparkman arranged a coffee for me. He had about 10 people. Griffin was a big help. I told them the same story and I said the GDR was showing a new aggressiveness based on the Soviets. I sense a change in the Soviet Ambassador too. He showed some self-consciousness about Angola. I didn't pursue it, because I didn't think I had a charter for it. I think the OAU was a victory.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/14/09, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Dep. v. 11/11/07
BY 11
NARA, DATE 4/7/04



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President: Yes, but the military situation is deteriorating.

Cooper: It is a shame. It is a rich, strategic country. I will see the Wednesday Club today. I talked with Muskie. He showed a good deal of depth. He said we had to get through this year. He said he was a Democrat but he didn't see much in the crop of candidates. He hoped we would get through the year calmly in foreign policy and without a blow up. I will see Humphrey today.

President: He can be helpful and harmful. He has peaks and valleys. He can be very helpful when he wants to be but he is hot and cold.

Cooper: I will write out notes of my visits, but I don't want them getting around. I wanted to point out the Soviets and the GDR are getting more aggressive.

I ran into Ted Kennedy. He invited me to a Soviet film showing and I talked to Dobrynin. He said I was doing a good job in the DGR. He said he was going back to Moscow next week. He said the U.S was getting very tough. I said they were themselves. Maybe they are self-conscious about Angola.

They are using the GDR to front for them, especially in South America. They are after trade. Even in Chile they have a commercial office.

President: Have the Soviets told the GDR to fend for itself in agriculture?

Cooper: Partly. My information is the Soviets will cut back on selling natural resources to all of Eastern Europe and gradually raise the price to the world price. So Eastern Europe will have to export more to the Soviet Union to pay and will have less to export to the West for hard currency.

With us, their chief interest in trade. There is no reciprocity or anything else. I favor a little trade with them and our businessmen want to trade there. But they will support the Soviet Union and are particularly active in South America. I think they are also working on Portugal and Spain.

President: If I can be pragmatic for a bit -- anything you can do to stimulate grain exports would be helpful. The Midwest thinks I got a bad deal for them.

Cooper: I think you did exactly right. I think they will buy more and I think the Soviet Union will too. The farmers are wrong.

Most of Congress says it is too late in Angola. I also told them how bad they had done on the Turkish embargo.

✓ P/Arnt Cooper

4 Feb 76

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES State review 3/11/04

BY WJ . NARA DATE 4/7/04



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- C I will write out notes of my visits, but I don't want them around. I wanted to point out a Saw & GOR and getting more acquainted. I ran into Ted Kennedy. He invited me to a Saw fishes sharing & I talked to Deloy. He said I doing a good job in GOR. Said he was going back to Warsaw next week. Said OS was getting very tough. I said they were the same. Maybe they self conscious about Angola. ~~How~~
- They asking GOR to fund for them, up in SA. They are after track - even in Chile they have a command off.
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with resources to all E E m + gradually
raise price to world price. So E E m will
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X & West for hard currency.

W/ers, their chief interest is trade. There is
no negotiating on anything else. I found a
bottle trade w/ them + our businessmen want
to trade them. But they will support SU as
partner, active in S. America. I think they
are also working in Port + Spain.

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