

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE/XGDS

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: Monday, October 11, 1976  
10:08 - 10:35 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Are you going to resign because your President let you down?

Kissinger: Don't even think of what happened. One little glitch.

The President: I thought I did well except for that one slip.

Kissinger: You have confirmed in that debate the country's need for you and the disaster that Carter would be.

The one thing you didn't get a chance to do is conceptualize. Almost all the newsmen feel the same way.

What Carter said makes you really frightened. I really cracked the press group on it Friday night.

The President: Teeter says the first reports after the debate put us 14 percent ahead. It was after two days of press play on Eastern Europe that it turned around.

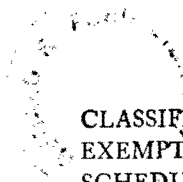
Kissinger: For the future, I think what you should do is conceptualize.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 9/13/04  
RY lch NARA DATE 7/20/04



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The President: I wanted to show up his defense policy and the "morality" argument.

Kissinger: I would say on the last point you're playing his game. I would hit him hard. Saying he is denigrating America with his talk. It can still be done. I don't know anyone who likes Carter.

The President: I will get some Eastern European ethnics in to say I made a mistake but they know what I stand for.

Kissinger: I agree, and say they shouldn't let Carter use it to demagogue and make cheap shots.

The President: How about Yigal Allon?

Kissinger: I would just go through the motions. The only issue is the AMOCO drilling. But I would stay out of it. We don't need any news for the next three weeks.

The President: How about the arms?

Kissinger: [Described what happened.]

Scowcroft: It was all announced from Jerusalem.

Kissinger: I think, whatever your feelings, you have an obligation to fight hard. I think you should hit hard and conceptualize -- especially in the last debate. I was at an "entertainment crowd" party where all of them would be Democratic, and they all despise Carter.

The President: How about Lebanon, and Egypt and Libya?

Kissinger: [Described briefly.]

On the Philippine base negotiations. I had a good meeting with Romulo. But Lynn wants us to start at \$50 million and inch up to \$100 million.

The President: I signed off the high amount.

Kissinger: I know, but if you could reaffirm it with the NSC. And also arms for Zaire. We really need to get something going there.



The President: How about Thursday?

Scowcroft: I will set it up.

Kissinger: I was going to speak in Tennessee.

The President: We won't win in Tennessee. It would be wasted.

Kissinger: I won't do it then.

The President: Ohio would be great. Or Connecticut.

Kissinger: I could do San Diego.

The President: Great.

Kissinger: I don't want to do too much.





Cherry - Ted Cummings - Tell him about arms.  
- NSC Thomas.

K I would just go there - motions. The only  
issue is a arms dealing. But I would stay  
out of it. We don't need any news for next  
3 wks.

P How about arms?

K (Described what happened)

S (Comment from person)

K I think whatever your feeling you have an  
obligation to fight hard. I think you should  
not hard conceptualize - esp in a last  
debate. I was at a "entertainment award" party  
where all would be Democrats other all  
despite Carter

P How about Lebanon, E/Lebanon.

K (Described briefly)

Phil. base report. I had good info w/Ronald.  
But by now wants us to start at \$50 mil & sink  
up to \$100

P I figured off a high amt.

K I know but if you could reaffirm it at a  
NSC, & also arms for Zaire. We really  
need to get something going there

P How about Thomas

S I will set it up.

K I was going to speak in Tenn.

P Are you in Tenn. It would be

K I don't do it then

P Ohio would be great. One town.

H I would do San Diego

P Great

K I don't want to do too much