

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 9.3

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MR# 05-93, #12

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

By dal NARA, Date 9/17/09

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
and Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
William Colby, Director, CIA
Gen. David C. Jones, U. S. Air Force
Chief of Staff
Donald Rumsfeld, Assistant to the President

DATE AND TIME:

Friday, February 7, 1975
5:22-5:50 p. m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office
The White House

President: I call this meeting -- it is not a substantive meeting, but following the last NSC meeting about our SALT positions, I read the whole story in the newspapers. I thought it had been released on purpose. I was upset -- to put it mildly. Another time -- when we decided not to proceed to MIRV -- two days later the story was all written out just as if it had been transcribed at the meeting. Then there were the articles in Aviation Week about the alleged Soviet violations of the SALT I Agreement. Their SCC Commissioner complained, and also complained to Stoessel about the TTB. The question is, what can we do about it?

Schlesinger: The fact of Malmstrom had to get out. The Aviation Week is bad, and it probably came out of the Pentagon.

Kissinger: The Malmstrom argument was very sophisticated. It could not be accidental.

President: I am not so familiar with the Stoessel matter, but these are terrible.

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Colby: I hate to raise this but the Los Angeles Times just asked whether we had raised a piece of a Soviet submarine. We have called Frank Murphy to try to kill it. It doesn't seem to be a Washington leak.

Schlesinger: We are changing crews; maybe that is it.

President: Dave, what do you think?

Jones: We confirmed the stoppage, but I don't think the service would do it because service leaks usually have a motive. That's lacking here.

President: I just couldn't believe it could have been put out in such detail.

Jones: There were quite a few people in the NSC community who knew about [redacted] problem.

Schlesinger: The Aviation Week article had to be a deliberate leak.

President: I really don't know what to do about this.

Colby: I have stopped taking notes myself.

Kissinger: The discussion of NSC meetings should not go beyond this room. The notes go nowhere.

Colby: Duckett met with the Jackson people. They had been briefed in detail on all these compliance issues.

President: Does anyone have any ideas?

Colby: We have asked for legislation to stop the bulk of it.

Schlesinger: On stuff which is in the system, it just is very hard to get a handle on it.

Colby: Our laws right now make it necessary to prove intent to injure the United States.

President: Rummie? What do you think?

Rumsfeld: When I came in, there were people who did not have national security clearances handling papers. We have closed a number of sloppy procedures. I think we have to use the carrot and stick, and be vigilant.



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Schlesinger: I have been in the Armed Forces Council for two weeks on this -- one on the DOD budget and one on Malmstrom.

President: We should be able to keep things within this group totally away from the press. I just want you all to know I am disturbed; I want you all to do whatever you can about it.

Schlesinger: The new requirements of the Freedom of Information Act don't help.

[There was then a discussion of the issue of LANCE missiles for Israel]



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