

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State  
 Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
 for National Security Affairs  
 Amb. Richard Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Syria

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, July 31, 1976  
 11:41 - 11:52 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
 The White House

The President: Henry was telling me of the discussion you had. I would like to hear your appraisal of the situation. I know you will see Asad.

Kissinger: I have told the President of the private message from me as well as the formal message.

The President: I fully concur. We want to be cooperative with respect to both economic and military aid if necessary.

Can you ascertain whether the Hussein message really came from Asad?

Murphy: It will be awkward but I will try. I will meet with him without the interpreter.

Kissinger: Dinitz says there are reports that East European forces may be introduced. If that happened, we would have to do something -- or else unleash the Israelis.

The President: Do the Syrians have the military capability to clean it up?

Murphy: Yes, but he has been restrained by not wanting to appear to be assaulting the Palestinians.

DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 12958, DEC. 31, 1993  
 NSC MEMO, 140400, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Div. ems 3/13/04  
 BY 14 NARA DATE 7/29/04

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CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft  
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b) (1, 3)  
 AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.



The President: How about the Iraqi threat?

Murphy: Most of the Syrians don't think the Iraqis will really attack.

Asad's blockade is not working. It is like a sieve.

The President: What is his attitude toward the Israelis?

Murphy: He knows they are giving arms to the Christians and he isn't complaining. Even tanks.

Kissinger: If there is a Congressional investigation, we are in trouble. We will just have to say it was self-defense. If the damn Syrians would finish the job in Lebanon, we would be in good shape. Asad has proven he is a careful, thoughtful man. If we can't settle with him, I don't know who we can.

The President: When you see Asad, give him the word in those three areas. Will we get the word back?

Murphy: Yes.



P/K/Murphy

7/31/76



P Henry was telling me of your decision, I would like your appraisal. I know you will see dead.

K I should like to write you from end of week by a personal way

P I fully agree. We want to be very <sup>at least</sup> both <sup>of them</sup> + mail, if necessary.

Can you ascertain whether a document <sup>with</sup> my name from Os

M It awkward but get try w/o a interpreter

K ~~the~~ Denny say there are reports that E. E. one force may be introduced. If that happened, we would have to be something - unsubstantiated.

P Do a Syzins have a mail copy to clear it up.

M Yes, but he has been restrained by not wanting to appear to be as anything - Pol.

P How about a frag threat

M That of a Syzins don't think a frag will really attack.

Osad's beachhead is not working. It is like a shell.

P What is his attitude toward I.

M He knows they are going Ans to a Christians & he isn't complaining. Event tanks

K If there is a very short. we are in trouble. Will just have to self defense.

If down Syzins would finish a job in labor we would be in real trouble. Osad has proved he is a complex, thief man. I've can't get thru him, I don't know who we can.

P When you see Osad, give him a word in

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E.O. 13060, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, state review 3/13/04

BY llh, NARA DATE 7/28/04



these 3 areas. Will we get a word back.

