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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

178-10004-10296

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
and Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, April 12, 1975
11:45 a. m.

PLACE: Oval Office

Kissinger: The press at David Brinkley's dinner last night was saying that if you went to Dubuque, the reception for you with that message [to Rabin] would be great. They asked about your mood, and were you trying to separate yourself. I said I thought you were at peace with yourself.

Braden said he asked Colby if he could deny there had been any assassinations or plans for them. He said, no. Colby must go.

President: I agree. It is a matter of who and when. I want to go into the country.

Couldn't I weave into the bicentennial something about our foreign policy?

Kissinger: I have been thinking after last night; I don't have to give a major speech each time. Just talk for 20 minutes.

President: That's right. The impact is you saying it. The thrust is we have to be strong.

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Kissinger: We can take sections from your [State of the World] speech and expand it. The people last night think within a year there will be an enormous backlash. This Congress is really McGovern's, because of Watergate. Osborne thought your speech was great and the pardon was one of the most courageous things you have done. The press is out of touch with the country.

President: The local press. Not out in the country.

Kissinger: The press is out of touch. Now that the Israelis have taken us on this year -- this year rather than next -- we maybe have the opportunity. We maybe should go for all the marbles.

President: Any reaction from Greece and Turkey to my speech?

Kissinger: The Turks are delighted. The Greeks are too, but they wanted the money under the table.

President: We haven't heard anything from Brezhnev.

Kissinger: Hamilton said he would introduce something.

I told Javits if he is a Jewish spokesman he had to talk to me as an American and what is in it for the United States.

Israel has done something again I would like to protest about. I told Allon about your talk with Schmidt, to show them the concern about Portugal. Now it is in the Israeli papers. I told Allon about them going to the Germans to contact the Europeans. They [the Israelis] in doing it this way make it look as if they are going behind our backs.

Egypt is afraid of an attack. I think we should tell them if it happens we will formally dissociate.

President: Should we tell the Israelis that?

Kissinger: When Allon is here.

Three out of five speeches now on foreign policy would be good. Rallying the people should be the theme. We should stress the last part of the speech, but not avoid Vietnam either.

President: Is the Vice President going to go?

Kissinger: He doesn't want to.