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Authority E.O. 12958

By NA NARA Date 12-12-01

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Red Cherry

1973-12-13, Faisal, Nixon, Al-Sowayel

~~SECRET~~MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SOWAYEL OF SAUDI ARABIAThursday, December 13, 1973
11:00 a. m. (30 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Brent Scowcroft

I. PURPOSE

To reaffirm your commitment to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to discuss the situation prior to the opening of the conference in Geneva.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background. In preparing for the peace conference which opens in Geneva on December 18, one of the most difficult problems affecting our ability to play a moderating role with both sides, is posed by the Arab oil embargo. Although it has been effective in demonstrating Arab solidarity and gaining respect for the strength of their position, there is an increasing danger that as its impact becomes more severe, pressure will increase for reprisals or capitulation, both making it more difficult for us to play a mediating role.

It would be useful to reiterate your resolve to achieve a settlement that serves the interests of all parties concerned but to make clear that your efforts toward this end will be made more difficult by the continued exercise of the oil embargo.

B. Participants. Ambassador Ibrahim AL-SOWAYEL.

C. Press Plan. Announcement after the meeting. No coverage.

III. TALKING POINTS

-- I would like to review personally with you the current situation in the Middle East as I see it and reiterate US resolve to seek a just and permanent peace in the area. In the past two months

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E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NLN 01-28/4 PC-LFR 09/16/06

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we have witnessed momentous developments in the Middle East which have opened an historic opportunity for ending the unnatural conditions of the past and for bringing a just and lasting peace to the countries and peoples of your region based on Security Council Resolution 242.

- I intend to move decisively to promote a just negotiated settlement that serves the interests of all countries in the area. I do so in the interest of preserving United States' interests but also out of a sense of solemn responsibility to our friends in the Middle East.
- My efforts thus far have produced some very solid accomplishments. We have achieved a ceasefire, I have made clear that a settlement will require Israeli withdrawals based on Security Council Resolution 242, and we are about to embark upon negotiations that hold the prospect for future prosperity and stability among all of the countries of the Middle East.
- The American people have understood your need to take the measures you have to demonstrate solidarity among all of the Arab countries, and they respect the strength and legitimacy of your arguments.
- As we enter this new phase of negotiations, however, I must state my serious concern that the American people will find it difficult to understand the continuation of measures aimed against us while we are making a major and difficult effort to promote the just peace that the Arab world seeks.
- I believe that unless the oil embargo is suspended, we may lose the support necessary for us to play a useful role. Furthermore, the continuing disruption of the economic life of the Free World will only weaken its overall strength to the benefit of the Communist countries -- a situation we both seek to avoid.
- With the cooperation of your Government I am prepared to devote the full energies of the United States to bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions. You have my total personal commitment to work toward this goal.

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