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MEMORANDUM

Authority *SA/2958*
By *J* NARA Date *4/10/87*

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS**1974-2-28, Rabin, Nixon, Jews**

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Nixon
Mrs. Shirley Temple Black, Ambassador
to Ghana
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, February 28, 1974
3:30 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

Black: I just completed twelve days in Cairo. President Sadat asked that I bring you a message. I just had lunch with Ghorbal -- he was very happy.

Here is the best news. Sadat just came from the Lahore Conference and meeting Mrs. Gandhi. We had an hour and a half talk. He said the Lahore meeting was successful and 600 million Arabs were united. He said Rogers was a good man but started listening to the Jews. But he was better than Johnson. He said Nixon is a great man -- a great leader. He'll get great support by Arabs. You must support Nixon. They are angry with those who left him -- like Laird. He said: Tell Nixon we will lift the embargo soon for him personally, soon.

I tried out the question of internationalization of Jerusalem. It hit the fan. He would go for internationalization of the entire city.

He is a good and great man and does his work with humor. He said: Tell the President I want a true and lasting peace.

I believe he is sincere. I was there in 1970 and it was a bad time -- just after Rogers.

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Here is where the Arab leaders stand with Sadat, according to Mrs. Sadat. He and Qaddafi shouted at each other in February. Nimieri -- he is an uncertain man, no courage. They had great respect for Faisal. He and Sadat are the leaders of the Arab world. Ali Amin -- he has been abroad for nine years. He doesn't know how we think.

For six years I have been trying to learn about the Middle East and the developing countries.

The President: Our difficult problem is the Syrians. The other is the Israelis. They have a more shaky government and we don't know if they'll be reasonable. There is a great gulf between them. Isn't that right?

Black: Yes.

The President: I'm glad we have revived our relations with Egypt. I hope they can deliver on the embargo.

Black: He said he will.

The President: They want to. But I don't know if they can deliver. They're afraid that if they move out in front of the radicals, they could be upset. There is no question they want it. The question is the radicals.

The problem on Jerusalem is the Jews consider it their capital.

Black: He said he would accept complete control of the Arab sector.

The President: Jerusalem is tough -- but not impossible. Our Israeli friends will have to give. Israel has proceeded on the basis for so long that they would have total U.S. support.

There must be a settlement and the U.S. must use its means to get it. It is in Israel's interest to get a settlement. If we don't, American influence with the Arabs will disappear. Israel should want American influence rather than Soviet. The future of Israel is us holding the ring against the Russians. When Golda comes in, I say we must play a role with all her neighbors in order to restrain them.

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Israel can't continue to be intransigent. Their security rests on the U.S. -- not on a bit of territory. The Jewish community here is worse than the Israeli Government.

The American people don't take that line. No more will the American people support Israel no matter what. They don't want American troops in there. Arms are okay, but they don't want confrontation with the Russians there.

It is silly to say friendship with 2-1/2 million Jews should override friendship with 188 million Arabs and 600 million Muslims. We will use diplomacy and probably have to use some pressure.

Black: Having retired in 1949, I am not close to them.

The President: Some of them are very responsible. Others are radical. Some are now on Jews in the Soviet Union. In 1968, 200 got out, last year it was 35,000. Ask the Jews what they would do to get them out. I take a tough line. I disagree with the Soviet system and their treatment of minorities, but we have made progress and we will make more.

Black: I served on the U.S. -Soviet Committee for Environmental Protection and I get along with them pretty well.

The President: They are okay as people. The Chinese are even a more closed society.

I hope you will continue to serve -- and talk to your Jewish friends cold turkey.

Black: Egypt is in favor of the survival of Israel.

I resigned the position at Environmental Quality because it wasn't challenging. I would like to serve in any way you want.

The President: I appreciate that. You have been a good supporter. Why don't you talk to Anne about the Bicentennial? You could be on the advisory committee.

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