

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Senator Barry Goldwater
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday, December 13, 1974
9:00 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

The President: I wanted to talk to you about the Vladivostok agreement. Interesting Scoop is becoming a dove on the issue. The complaints are coming from those who say we should have gone lower with the ceilings. Our proposal stemmed from three NSC meetings and was basically the JCS wish for equal aggregates.

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What have we given up, and what have they? Our program is under 2,400. We can get up there by keeping our B-52s or we can add the Trident and B-1. The Soviet Union has about 2,550 now, so they will have to cut back. They have no MIRVs yet but they are already testing now. Their program as estimated [] is substantial, so this is for them a cutback. We got them to drop FBS and the British and French missile forces. So it seems to us, the JCS, and Schlesinger that this is a good program and required more concessions by them than by us.

Goldwater: When I made my comments I hadn't heard the details. I basically am not concerned about the nuclear field; I am basically concerned about the conventional. The Soviet Union is passing us. I have the same feeling I had in the '30's. I see trouble in the Middle East, not only over Israel. I hope we stay out of it. I don't want to see you not being able to react to a conventional threat.

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The President: Secretary Kissinger says the same thing.

Goldwater: Five out of six in the new Congress want to cut the military. It's just like the 1930's.

The President: We're having a meeting tomorrow on the DOD budget. I am leaning to the higher figures.

I heard that Scoop would submit a resolution that we should renegotiate the Vladivostok agreement. I would hope for an amendment that would force them to vote for \$3-5 billion more a year if we don't get it. The Navy is in bad shape.

Goldwater: The Navy also has obsolete thinking.

The President: We also need to keep up R&D.

Goldwater: Schlesinger is one of the best we have come across. If you can come up with a better one, okay, but he tells it straight.

The President: I have no present intention to do so.

Goldwater: We don't need the FB-111 if we have the B-1. And we need the A-7 like tits on a bull. The Soviets have never scrapped the Badger. I don't want us to get into a war like the 1930's.

The President: It will be over my dead body.

Goldwater: The big thing is to build up the Navy. We have too many missiles. We need only a couple of standard types. We are thinking of a committee on procurement in the Congress. It is terrible. The Pentagon is fifty percent over-staffed. Every office has a PIO [Public Information Officer]. It is over-staffed and over-organized. I would tell Schlesinger to get to work--cut the size, reorganize, and move people out. The PACAF closure was a good move.

The President: We didn't get much flak from the base closings.

Goldwater: I'm sorry to see Saxbe go, but I knew he wants to be an Ambassador more than Jesus Christ. Just don't put Goodell in.

The President: I have no intention of doing that.

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