

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE AND TIME: Friday, December 6, 1974
12:00 noon

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

PLACE: The Cabinet Room
The White House

PFIAB/NSC Review
Completed.

SUBJECT: President Ford's Meeting with the President's
Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

President: Sorry I am late. I had a good session with Chancellor Schmidt. Thank you for coming. I remember the meeting we had in the EOB. I have been impressed with your work and I know you will continue your outstanding work.

Adm. Anderson: Unfortunately, they still are fumbling along with that.

President: We have an unfortunate situation with intelligence and it's standing with the public. This group can take this highly important matter and give an objective analysis.

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There is one area where we could use some help. Our overseas intelligence collection facilities we need to look at. What are your thoughts on this?

Adm. Anderson: We have been working on economic intelligence. You need to be able to project, not just react. We had a good Middle East review yesterday. We met with Secretary Kissinger yesterday. Today we meet on [redacted] The next meeting we will examine our ability to verify strategic forces.

President: That will be an important part of the SALT II agreement. I would encourage you to support the agreement. It is not a partisan issue. Any help you can give would be appreciated, as you travel around the country and talk to people.

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2

Leo Cherne: It is a good agreement. If Colby's charts could be sanitized and used, it would be very helpful.

Dr. Teller: You know I have been opposed to arms reduction because I am suspicious. But I am impressed by Vladivostok. I can and will support it. I have one reservation--which I don't plan to air in public. Where there is a potential for tremendous improvement and difficulty in checking it is in the area of accuracy. Improvement in accuracy should have high priority. That is not an intelligence program. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] This is not directly associated with the agreement. And I am astonished with the progress which has been made.

President: Don't we have a strong program in this area?

Dr. Foster: I don't think so. Arms control agreements make it harder to get from the Congress what we need to provide for our security. Vladivostok limited their capacity to move, but it probably increased our problems in getting the funding.

President: I will recommend whatever is needed. Congress, though, might come to the wrong conclusion.

Dr. Foster: It is important to explain the realities to the Congress.

President: I will. Is there anything else?

Adm. Anderson: We have had excellent cooperation from the intelligence community.

Mr. Gray: Our overseas visits are important.

Adm. Anderson: Someone mentioned the importance of measures which could be considered economic warfare. Maybe we need structural changes in the intelligence board -- to have one group for military-political intelligence and another for economic-industrial.

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3

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Dr. Foster: It would be good if the intelligence community would give the best case (on critical questions) for each possibility. Instead of just the worst case. For example, they should tell us, yes, there will be a war; no there won't. To complete the picture.

President: Thank you. It was good to see you again.

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