

Authority NND 989755  
By CO NARA Date 4/5/10

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE AND TIME: December 17, 1975  
10:45 a.m.

PLACE: Hotel Raphael, Paris

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: CANADA

Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State  
for External Affairs  
Basil Robinson, Under Secretary of State  
for External Affairs  
Peter Towe, Assistant Under Secretary  
for External Affairs  
Michel Dupuy, Assistant Under Secretary  
for External Affairs  
Jacques Roy

U.S.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger  
Charles W. Robinson, Under Secretary  
for Economic Affairs  
Helmut Sonnenfeldt, Counselor  
Arthur A. Hartman, Assistant Secretary  
for European Affairs  
Ernest H. Preeg, EUR/RPE (Notetaker)

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(Just prior to meeting Secretary Kissinger and Mr. MacEachen gave a brief televised interview in which they stated that relations between the two countries were excellent, and in fact are better now than they have been for several years. Text of remarks is attached.)

MacEachen: It appears we've done the main job of the conference now.

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The Secretary: Bouteflika raised a point with me this morning. He has the idea that the two conference co-chairmen, plus the co-chairmen of each commission, should get together and work out the guidelines for the commissions.

Robinson: Our idea from the beginning has been that the chairmen of each group should work out the guidelines.

The Secretary: Regarding US-Canadian relations, I may have lost an Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He claims that the press misinterpreted what he said. I was astonished to hear the report. We have problems, such as TV and Time magazine, but we have been working them out. We should not give the impression that our relations are at a crisis point that can only be solved by a meeting of the President and the Prime Minister. In the normal course of events, if you want to have a meeting, we can have it. However, I think it is a mistake to have a meeting over these issues.

MacEachen: I believe we should de-escalate. The Prime Minister has made a point of view of how closely we have been in touch, and that he has met the President three times in the last year.

The Secretary: We have a prepared statement, but this might be overkill with the TV tape that we just made. The weird thing is that Porter has been very pleased with the relationship between the two countries.

Hartman: He claims he has said nothing about "deterioration" or a summit meeting.

MacEachen: I am glad to hear that. I was particularly concerned over the word "deterioration."

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The Secretary: No, he says he only mentioned the three problems, TV, Time magazine and Saskatchewan.

MacEachen: I have no complaint about that.

The Secretary: Back to the conference, there is nothing more to be done now, but should we oppose a meeting of the co-chairmen as proposed by Bouteflika?

Robinson: Not as long as it takes place after the conference.

The Secretary: Do we need a statement, or will it be overkill?

MacEachen: It's a good statement. It would be useful if we could hand this out to the press people outside.

The Secretary: OK, we'll do that. (Text is attached.)

MacEachen: We will also have to demonstrate in the period ahead that relations between us are in fact good.

The Secretary: Well, all you have to do is yield on the three points.

Sonnenfeldt: Enders has confirmation hearings coming up, and we could use this opportunity.

The Secretary: If even one of these issues could be solved, it would be helpful.

Hartman: Time magazine is going to quit in Canada in any event.

Sonnenfeldt: They will continue to sell the American edition, but will no longer produce a Canadian edition.

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- MacEachen: People will still buy Time, but there will be no Canadian section in it.
- The Secretary: Why is it in the US interest to have Time publish a Canadian edition?
- Hartman: It is a form of discrimination. We have protested in the past. This is an attempt to encourage development of similar magazines in Canada. We have a similar problem with Readers Digest.
- MacEachen: But Time and Readers Digest haven't been raised between us since the bill was passed. You have raised the broadcasting issue, but not Time. You recall that when the President and the Prime Minister met, the Prime Minister talked fully to the President about this.
- The Secretary: I'm not sure the President understood all of the implications of what he was being told.
- MacEachen: At one point, the Prime Minister reminded the President to talk to you about it. Before we made the announcement on Time and Readers Digest, Ivan Head was in touch with the White House, and, as I recollect, Scowcroft said that the President had no further point to make on it. I had opposed any move until we had advance consultation with the US. The action had been proposed for an earlier period, but it was delayed until we had consulted. I am not aware of subsequent conversations on this subject since the announcement.
- Hartman: There have been no subsequent conversations, and I was not aware of the White House consultation, nor was Porter.

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The Secretary: I didn't know about the consultations, or at least I have no recollection of it. The President never followed up with me.

MacEachen: I go into this background because of my meticulous care in having prior consultation.

The Secretary: But wouldn't you have moved in any event?

MacEachen: Probably yes, but if you had come back strongly, we would have reconsidered. There was some in the government opposed to this action.

The Secretary: Can anything be done now?

MacEachen: No, the die is cast. It has already passed Parliament. I do remember that evening, and the Prime Minister had taken care that you were notified of the talk with the President.

The Secretary: I don't recall if I was consulted subsequently. It is hard to believe that Scowcroft would have done it without consulting me.

Sonnenfeldt: It has been Time magazine that has been in touch with us on an almost weekly basis.

The Secretary: Is the document ready yet? We have a rule that every Foreign Service Officer must read the document before it can be issued. This is now claimed as a right, and I am no longer supposed to overrule my advisers when we disagree. This is the new system. This document looks fine. We have no fundamental problems. If we issue this from both sides, that should do it.

MacEachen: I would like to raise two additional points. First, the law of the sea.

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The Secretary: We have managed to prevent Congressional action in this session. In February I will announce myself head of our delegation to the conference in March, so I think we can at least hold off legislation through the first session of the Law of the Sea Conference. If we hold off until Friday Congress will be in recess until January. Then there is another holiday break in February and then we will be right before the conference.

MacEachen: If Congressional action were taken, we would have to take another look at our situation. The second point is the Korea issue. The impending conclusion of our agreement with Korea has been postponed because of information you have given us. You have knowledge that Korea is gearing up for a nuclear capability. We have asked the State Department for information, and we may need to ask for more.

The Secretary: Let me look into it. The only evidence is the reprocessing plant they want from France.

MacEachen: There is some form of evidence that Park has told his staff he wants something by 1980. This is highly sensitive, but if such an order is confirmed, that would be overwhelming.

The Secretary: One question is whether the Koreans have such an intention, and another question is whether the Canadian agreement would help.

MacEachen: Even if we could argue that our participation was not a factor, there would still be a strong public reaction.

The Secretary: We will keep you informed.

MacEachen: We understand that you will cease your nuclear cooperation with Korea if they go on with the French.

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The Secretary: That is correct. We will keep you informed.  
If we turn off the reprocessing plant, that  
should do it.

(Text of joint statement issued at conclusion of meeting is  
attached.)

Attachments:

1. Text of Public Remarks  
prior to this Bilateral Meeting
2. Text of Joint Statement issued.  
at conclusion of Bilateral Meeting

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ATTACHMENT 1

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PUBLIC REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AND CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ALLEN J. MACEACHEN PRIOR TO A BILATERAL MEETING IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 17, 1975

The Secretary: I didn't know we had any problems until a few days ago.

MacEachen: Well, do we have any?

The Secretary: No.

MacEachen: I don't think so either.

The Secretary: We have an excellent relationship.

MacEachen: I've been saying to you and to myself and to all others that the state of our relationship was excellent. In fact, I think it is better than it has been for some time.

The Secretary: I think the state of our relations is excellent. Between two countries of our size there are always some problems but we are solving them in a spirit of cooperation and friendship. Our relations are good. The Prime Minister and the President's relations are very good also.

MacEachen: Well, that is, I am glad to say, this is the interpretation that the Prime Minister has put on all these comments that have been made recently in the House of Commons. And his interpretation is that his relations with the President are good and with you.

The Secretary: Of course, without problems life would be dull. But the problems we have ...

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MacEachen:

Of course, there are problems and we have agreed that we want to consult about them and work them out.

The Secretary:

I think that our relations haven't been better, at least since I've been in Washington. This is my assessment of the situation.

MacEachen:

Well, I agree with that. I can only comment with respect to my own period in office and I think the atmosphere is better now than it was a year and a half ago.

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ATTACHMENT 2

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JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AND CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ALLEN MACEACHEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR BILATERAL MEETING IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 17, 1975

The United States and Canada have a long history of friendship and cooperation. Both of our Governments have the intention to continue the process of consultation and negotiation which enables us to surmount the inevitable economic strains that arise from time to time between these two major economies. The recent meetings in Ottawa between the two Foreign Ministers and the excellent relations between President Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau give the highest confidence that our relations will continue to be managed in a way that will strengthen even further our friendship and cooperation.



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