

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

SECRET/NODIS

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

December 8, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Harold H. Saunders *HS*

SUBJECT: Record of the President's Talk with Golda Meir

Have never seen Ed
Samuelson informed

Joe Sisco has sent me a copy of the personal note he has received from Wally Barbour (attached), recalling the President's promise to let him read the MemCons from his talk with Prime Minister Meir. Ambassador Barbour notes that he has not seen these and asks Joe whether he can get them to him.

This is a subject which Joe has pressed me on several times. Although I have mentioned occasionally to you, I have not pressed you on it. Although I recognize the desirability of maintaining the privacy of such a record, there is something to be said for providing the three or four people most responsible for carrying out the President's policy with an accurate reading in some detail of what that policy is.

Since Joe has raised this with me a number of times now, I simply want to let you know that the President apparently promised this and that Joe now has this query from Wally Barbour.

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Tel Aviv, Israel

PERSONAL

November 19, 1969

The Honorable
Joseph J. Sisco
Assistant Secretary of State
for NEA
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Joe:

You will recall that I told you before leaving Washington that the President told Under Secretary Richardson and myself on the White House lawn that contrary to his usual practice he had himself dictated a memorandum of his first conversation with Mrs. Meir at which they were the only participants and that he had asked Dr. Kissinger who attended the second meeting to prepare a similar memorandum covering that session. The President added that while he did not want these two papers to be circulated in any regular channels nor in fact even their existence to be known except by a limited few, he specifically wanted Under Secretary Richardson, myself and yourself to have copies.

Since no one else was present except Richardson and myself when the President made this comment, it may well be that whoever ultimately had charge of the limited distribution of the documents was unaware of the President's wishes. In any case I have not yet seen either piece of paper and wonder if you can obtain copies for me.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

Halby
Walworth Barbour

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