

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and  
 Assistant to the President for National  
 Security Affairs  
 Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-Designate  
 Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to  
 the President for National Security Affairs

DATE: September 6, 1974

PLACE: Oval Office  
The White House

SUBJECTS: Visits; 40 Committee; [REDACTED]

6012958  
3/4/81

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>State/NSA/CIA</u>
By <u>EF</u> NARA, Date <u>9/13/80</u>

*8012458  
3.461*

Kissinger: The New York Times has a copy of something on 40 Committee operations in Chile. We will brief the 40 Committee next week. What happened is this: Johnson put money in the '64 elections. We put [REDACTED] into the '70 elections and spread it out. We then put more in to influence the Congressional elections and that failed too. After the elections we put money into opposition parties and newspapers. It was designed to keep the democratic process going. This was not a regular covert activity. There was no attempt at a coup. Though there could have been in '70 if we hadn't failed.

There are two problems: The substance is embarrassing but we can ride it out. The other is the leaks. The 40 Committee has followed the same procedures since President Eisenhower.

Rockefeller: I was on it.

Kissinger: All these activities are approved by the Deputies in regular but secret process. If these things leak, we haven't a government.

President: Who did it?

Kissinger: I want to think about that. The Committees are briefed on these activities. The problem is this is the most secret activity we have. If there are minutes, we should be able to track it. We might have Ter Horst make a statement, not on the facts but on the principle.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

3

President: Let me know Monday. If the committees were informed it shouldn't be a problem.

Kissinger: They were regularly informed.

President: Let's ride it out and we'll see.

Kissinger: We have to have these things. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

E012958

3,461

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

PHOTO COPY  
FROM  
GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY