

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hussein of Jordan

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
King Hussein  
Sandra Charles (notetaker)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 12, 1989; 07:19 a.m. - 07:24 a.m. EST  
The White House

King Hussein: It is lovely to hear from you. I am happy you called.

President: I am happy to talk to you. I just received a report of your meeting with our Ambassador, and I wanted to have a word with you before you arrive here. Before we get into that, I want say how much Barbara and I look forward to having you and Queen Noor here.

King Hussein: Thank you. We are delighted to be coming.

President: Our Ambassador passed on your views from your meeting with him. I can certainly understand your concerns and even the skepticism that you have felt about aspects of the peace process. I understand the difficulties that lie ahead. I am working on this with Brent Scowcroft and Jim Baker, and we realize there are no simple answers. That's why I want to have enough time when you are here to discuss in detail your concerns.

King Hussein: I appreciate that very much.

President: I understand you will be meeting with President Mubarak, is that today?

King Hussein: Yes, in a few hours from now.

President: Tell him I said he could make a great baseball player if he would practice. You know I took him to a baseball game while he was here.

King Hussein: Yes, he told me about it.

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2000-0429-F  
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President: It was good, a lot of fun. We had a good visit. I want to fill you in on the details. A couple of markers we mentioned have caused the other party some concern -- Jimmy Baker's statement and my characterization of the West Bank as an occupation. But these are the policy positions of the United States. I hope they help. I appreciate having our Ambassador's readout of your conversation. I am somewhat heartened -- but not naive -- after my meetings with President Mubarak and Shamir.

King Hussein: I hope to get a reading from President Mubarak and the Palestinians.

President: On elections, I want you know we won't endorse anything that hurts Jordan or your position. I hope there will be open-mindedness until we can talk more about it. I realize there are elements in it that neither side likes, but it might be the way to get talks going. There may be some differences with you. That is why, when you are here, I want to take whatever time it takes to talk with you. Not just pleasantries. But you and me alone, or with a few advisors. So I fully understand your position. That's why I am looking forward to your visit and also renewing our friendship, both Barbara and I.

King Hussein: It has been nice talking to you. I am looking forward to my visit, also.

President: Please give my respects to the Queen. Tell her that if there are any friends she wants at the big dinner we are having to let our Embassy know, and we will accommodate her. It will be a homecoming for her so we want her surrounded by friends.

King Hussein: Thank you Mr. President. Good-bye.

President: Good-bye.