

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister
Yitzhak Shamir of Israel (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir
Notetaker: C. David Welch

DATE, TIME October 2, 1989, 10:13 a.m. - 10:23 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: I'm very happy to have this opportunity to talk
to you. (U)

Prime Minister Shamir: So am I, Mr. President. How are you?
(U)

The President: First of all, let me wish you a very happy
holiday -- a Happy New Year! (U)

Prime Minister Shamir: Same to you, Mr. President. (U)

The President: President Mubarak will be here in a little while,
and I wanted to talk to you beforehand, to get your thinking. We
are at a critical juncture in pursuing your plan, the peace
initiative that you thought up and presented. I plan to talk to
Mubarak about the question of meeting you to try to move things
forward. I had good talks with Foreign Minister Arens and Jim
Baker had some meetings in New York also. Jim raised with
Foreign Minister Abd el-Meguid the question of a meeting with
Mubarak on the basis of the Israeli initiative. Jim had a good
bilateral with each Foreign Minister and a trilateral meeting as
well. We sense a real opportunity here that perhaps a meeting
could help to move forward. The idea would be to start a pre-
elections dialogue, with the focus on moving ahead. We are
thinking of this as something that could be in your interest. I
hope your Cabinet deliberations will make it possible to move
forward. I wouldn't want to see the impression that Israel is
saying no to its own initiative. We don't, incidentally, see the
Egyptian effort as an alternative; we are sticking to the Israeli
initiative. I was wondering if you had any advice for me before
I meet with Mubarak? (Ø)

Prime Minister Shamir: Thank you very much for this call, Mr.
President. It is very kind of you to raise these matters with
me, and to have this conversation. It goes without saying that
I'm interested in pushing the initiative forward. It is our deep

desire to see the initiative move forward and to bring peace. I am happy to meet Mubarak and discuss all this without any pre-commitment. I'm now waiting for the full reports of Mr. Arens. I do not know exactly what was proposed and your views and the views of the Egyptians. Arens returns on Wednesday. Then, we will have our Cabinet meeting on Thursday. At that time, we will have all the necessary information. You can be sure that we are very interested in the implementation of our initiative; we will not do anything against it. But it all depends on the conditions, the approach, how and whom to meet, and the subjects. This is not a simple matter, Mr. President; it is very complicated. (Ø)

The President: I appreciate this opportunity to talk. Would it be helpful to tell Mubarak that you would be willing to meet, with no preconditions? I don't want to appear to be brokering a meeting. Or, do you want to wait until you've had the opportunity to talk to Arens? (Ø)

Prime Minister Shamir: You are right, Mr. President, maybe it's better to see Arens first. Then, that would be the appropriate time to meet Mubarak and to have our Cabinet meeting. (Ø)

The President: Well, we will leave it that way. Any role the United States can play in encouraging the Shamir plan, that is fine by us. I honestly do believe that Mubarak is trying to help, not to steal the limelight. Jim Baker was very pleased with his meetings. I saw Deputy Prime Minister Peres, as well as Arens. I hope that my meeting with Peres, he is after all the Deputy Prime Minister, did not cause problems in Likud. But I felt that was something we must do. The next step is our talks with Mubarak. (Ø)

Prime Minister Shamir: I am encouraged by your interest. I promise that we are more than happy to cooperate in efforts for peace in our area. I am sure the talks with Mubarak will be very helpful and useful to advance the process. Your desire for peace will help. (Ø)

The President: We will try our best. If anything else comes up, we will be in touch. Good-bye. (U)

Prime Minister Shamir: Good-bye. (U)