

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with the Amir of
Kuwait (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Sheikh Jaber, the Amir of Kuwait
Interpreter: Shuckran Kamal
Notetaker: Sandra Charles (NSC)

DATE, TIME October 16, 1989, 9:03 a.m. - 9:22 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned the Amir to discuss developments in the Middle East. (Ø)

The President: Your Majesty, how are you? I called to talk with you. I just saw a mutual friend of ours, Hosni Mubarak, who said many kind things about you. I wanted to have a short chat with you. (U)

The Amir: I am glad to hear from you. (U)

The President: If it's okay with you, I'd like to make some comments and ask for your opinion on them. (U)

The Amir: Fine, go ahead. (U)

The President: On the peace process, we see a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue about elections leading to negotiations as the way forward on the peace process. Mubarak has been a big help in generating support from the Palestinians, and we have been supportive of his initiative. (Ø)

On Iran and Iraq, we hope they will to find a permanent resolution of their differences. We are encouraged somewhat by the change of government in Iran. You have close ties with Iran, so I would appreciate your insights on the current situation. On that, we are still troubled by the hostages. We have the greatest respect for your courage in the face of the threats made against you. (Ø)

I want to thank you for brokering our recent dialogue with the South Yemeni government. We are encouraged by our talks between

our two UN permanent representatives, and are grateful to you. I also wanted to thank you for the economic support you have provided to another good friend of ours, King Hussein of Jordan. (Ø)

Also I want to encourage anything you can do for Poland following your Minister of Public Works visit. I encourage much continued interest on your part on these things. (Ø)

I would welcome your comments Your Majesty. (U)

The Amir: Thank you for your call. I will comment on your points. (U)

On the Palestinians, we have no clear picture about what transpired between Arafat and Mubarak on the elections proposal. We have only seen the news reports. We have no confirmation of the PLO's position on elections, however we won't object to whatever the PLO position is because the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. (Ø)

On Iran and Iraq, we do not have close relations with Iran. However, they are trying to strengthen their relations with Kuwait. I had a meeting with the Foreign Minister in Belgrade. He invited me on behalf of President Rafsanjani to visit Iran. I have accepted but will not go until they show good intentions. Tomorrow I will receive credentials from the Iranian Ambassador. If the new government becomes stable, then I expect things will improve. (Ø)

On Yemen, we are pleased that the talks on normalizing relations with Yemen progressed well. We favor this because it is good for the region as a whole. On Jordan, relations between Kuwait and Jordan are good and close. I have good, close relations with King Hussein. I am most pleased to help him, and will do my best to help in the future. (Ø)

On Poland, our Minister of Public Works just visited there. We are willing to help with some projects. A Polish delegation will visit Kuwait soon, and we will complete talks on these projects. (Ø)

The President: Your comments have been most interesting and extraordinarily helpful. I want to touch base with you and others in the region to get your view of things. Our interest in the Gulf remains paramount. I am grateful for the good relations we have with your country and with others in the Gulf. I want to feel free to call you from time to time, and I would welcome your thoughts from time to time. (Ø)

The Amir: Actually, I want to thank you for calling. The good relations between the United States and Kuwait are important to us. The times require that we continue to maintain contacts and communications. This would be necessary to continue our good relations. (Ø)

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The President: Please convey my respects to the Prime Minister and Crown Prince, my good friend who went to a baseball game with me a few years ago. (U)

The Amir: I will convey your respects. In fact the Crown Prince still has fond memories of the experience of meeting you as Vice President and how much he enjoyed his visit. (U)

The President: Goodbye and good luck. I sure enjoyed this telephone call. (U)

The Amir: I want to thank you and wish you luck and success in all the missions the free world looks to you to accomplish. (U)

The President: Thank you and God bless you. (U)

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