

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**MEMCON**

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Shamir of Israel

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Shamir
Sandra Charles, NSC Staff, Notetaker

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: February 5, 1990; 10:48 - 10:51 a.m. EST
The Oval Office

The President telephoned Prime Minister Shamir concerning the terrorist bombing incident on Sunday, February 4, 1990.

The President: Mr. Prime Minister, how are you?

Prime Minister Shamir: Fine. Thank you for calling. How are you?

The President: I know this is a difficult day for you, but I just wanted to phone to say how sickened and saddened we are over the terrible news of what took place to the tourists in Egypt. It is a tragedy. I wanted to express my condolences to the families of the victims and to all Israelis who must be deeply shocked by this.

Prime Minister Shamir: Thank you. I will convey your feelings to the families. It is really very painful.

The President: This kind of cowardly attack demonstrates that we must be making progress toward peace or we wouldn't have these attacks, and those who oppose peace are in a minority and are forced to take these desparate actions. I am trying to put a positive spin on that.

The only way to honor those who have sacrificed and to frustrate those who commit such crimes is to go forward on the path of peace. I want you to know that the Israeli people are in our prayers.

Prime Minister Shamir: We are interested in making progress. Egypt has to have improved security. This is not the first event of this kind. They are trying to do their best, but they will have to do better. I hope we can make progress in the future. I know Secretary Baker talked with my Foreign Minister today and they have made arrangements. I hope it will go forward.

The President: I would be pleased if you would convey that we are deeply concerned and that I called to express my condolences. If you agree, I would like to make a statement about our call.

Prime Minister Shamir: Thank you very much. It could be helpful.

The President: All right, good luck to you, sir. Nice talking to you.

Prime Minister Shamir: All the best.