

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMCON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hussein of Jordan (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Hussein
Notetaker: C. David Welch

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 23, 1990, 1:17-1:22 p.m.
The Oval Office

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The President: Hello, Your Majesty. (U)

King Hussein: Sir, how are you? (U)

The President: I'm just fine. Simply called to express my thanks to you for the kindness you showed to Senator Dole and Secretary Dole and the rest of that travelling group. They came back very enthusiastic and very grateful to you. (U)

King Hussein: Thank you very much. It was a very, very great pleasure to meet them and have frank and open discussions, and we enjoyed having them very much. I hope it was useful. (U)

The President: They enjoyed it and as Senator Dole said in public about his trip -- it seems to have helped ease the tension. I was fascinated about their visit to Iraq. We're telling Iraq that they themselves must work to create an environment in which relations can be improved. Very frankly, the recent events have hurt, but we want to stay in touch. There is no conspiracy against Iraq. Bob Dole and that group had a chance to make that point and you were helpful in this to make that clear to Saddam. (Ø)

King Hussein: I will continue to do everything I can to help. That is very, very important. (U)

The President: I got your letter of the 9th and I will be sending you a detailed reply. You raised a lot of questions, serious matters. I will get you a considered reply. I know of Jordan's special interest and I know what our policy has been since '67. My views are firm on this -- the settlements and all of that. All sides know that. I will try to be a reasonable proponent of American policy without changing it. I want you to know that. (Ø)

King Hussein: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I know this is the case. I am reassured by your kindness in calling me today. We know your responsibilities are far greater than they were in the past because while the world was divided between two superpowers in the past, your responsibilities are now greater in the world. And sir, we look to you to be able to help us on the problem of great concern to us as well as to everyone. (U)

The President: We're in a hiatus because of the change of government in Israel. We still want to be helpful in getting the peace process started. Say, I heard you might be coming to the States in the fall, to New York I was told. If you are, I'd like to get together with you for quiet supper or a visit at the White House. (Ø)

King Hussein: I'd like that very much. I'm going to New York to attend a summit on the children of the world and the future. I thought it was a good idea. I hope that I'll be able to come to meet you, God willing. (Ø)

The President: Let's do that. As soon as your staff knows your exact dates, if you will let us know. I would like very much to see you. Just called to say thank you. I'd welcome any thoughts you would have -- the release of this one hostage, it's kind of a cruel procedure where one is released and they flash pictures of the others. I'm grateful if you ever get any thoughts about that situation, please get in touch. If you hear anything -- I know you're not directly involved -- I'd like to know what you think about this. (Ø)

King Hussein: I am happy to congratulate you for the release of the hostage and hope that the others will follow soon. It shouldn't have ever happened. If there is anything I can do, of course I shall not hesitate to call you. (U)

The President: My respects to Queen Noor. I'm looking forward to seeing you in the fall, if not sooner. (U)

King Hussein: Noor sends regard to you and Mrs. Bush. Best wishes on Easter. (U)

The President: Thanks to you. I hope it will be a good year. (U)