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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hussein of Jordan

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
King Hussein  
John Montgomery, Notetaker

DATE, TIME June 23, 1990, 7:36 - 7:42 a.m.  
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President initiated the call to King Hussein to thank him for his birthday message and to discuss the Middle East Peace process. (Ø)

The President: Hello, Your Majesty? (U)

King Hussein: Good morning, how are you? (U)

The President: Well, I am all right. I am calling on a couple of matters. The first one is very brief and pleasant. Thank you for your thoughtful birthday greeting. I passed this 66-year old mark. It was a very nice greeting. (U)

King Hussein: Thank you, Mr. President and I hope you have many, many more happy and productive years. (U)

The President: I am very lucky here. I am calling you on your recent call to our Ambassador about the PLO. Our Ambassador sent in a very factual report explaining that this is a matter that complicates your life and that troubles me very much. I wanted to tell you from our standpoint, given the predicament that it started, it was very difficult to continue status quo. I had to go forward to let the PLO know they must reiterate their position that Arafat opposes this terrorism against another country. Let me make two points. We have not cut off the dialogue; we have suspended it. We now have to move forward and push Israel to meet with a Palestinian delegation that includes deportees and people tied to Jerusalem. You have seen the row about our position on settlements. We are not going to change our policy. We also hope that the Palestinians will not reject out of hand meeting with the Israelis and turn to violence. I don't know if

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there is anything you can do on that score. I understand we are entering a difficult period of time. Any thoughts and suggestions you may have would be appreciated and please send them along. Your views on these decisions and your help will be appreciated. We are weighing it here. I don't think the Israeli's are happy with our approach. We need minimum reassurance from Arafat. (C)

King Hussein: Thank you very much, indeed. We very much appreciate your call. I will try to write you right away sir about my ideas on peace in this area in a great period of difficulty. There is much anger and it is very, very difficult and frustrating. (C)

The President: I would appreciate such a personal message. We are trying with Israel to get talks going. I sent Shamir a very long message. I asked him for clarification of where the peace process stands. We are also pushing for a decision from Arafat. We have not been overly successful. We were pursuing Jim Baker's proposals to move the process forward and then this stupid terrorist raid. (C)

King Hussein: Yes, there are extremists on both sides that you can't control. There have been warnings from the beginning of extremists on both sides who want to disrupt the process. (C)

The President: I know that this step may be playing into the hands of the extremists. I now need some help and advice. The U.S. position greatly depends on a statement Arafat makes on terrorism. I want to get back in business with them. I don't want to end all talks. I just want to suspend them. If Arafat rejects terrorism and meets the other requirements on which the dialogue was based, I will resume dialogue. Arafat needs to give me minimum reassurance. Please send me your thoughts. (C)

King Hussein: OK, I will do that right away. (U)

The President: I hope this suspension does not get between the U.S. and Jordan. I will do my best to get back on track with the peace process. Give my bestfelt wishes to Queen Noor. (U)

King Hussein: The best to you and Barbara. (U)

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