

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Hussein
President Mubarak
C. David Welch, NSC Staff, Notetaker

DATE, TIME August 2, 1990, 12:17 - 12:31 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Aboard Air Force One enroute Aspen, Colorado

The President initiated the calls to King Hussein and President Mubarak, who were together in Alexandria, Egypt. The President spoke serially with each one.

The President: Good afternoon, your Majesty. How are you? (U)

King Hussein: Good afternoon, sir, it's very good to hear your voice. (U)

The President: I'm calling from the plane on the way to Aspen, Colorado, where I'm going to that studies institute there, with a meeting with Maggie Thatcher as well. I wanted to talk to you about these most, most disturbing events. I was wondering if you had any thoughts about what can be done. You know the area so well. We're just very surprised at this outrageous invasion.
(Ø)

King Hussein: I'm here with President Mubarak, and I think he would like to speak to you afterwards. I felt it looked ominous yesterday because of the lack of any progress in the talks. I will be going to Saudi Arabia and to Iraq, sir, in an effort to dampen the situation at the highest levels. That is our objective, hopefully by putting it on that level we can make progress. (Ø)

The President: Does our friend Mubarak feel the same way? (Ø)

King Hussein: Yes, and he also wants to talk to you. (Ø)

The President: I'm worried about the danger to the lives of Americans. Most important, acceptance of this invasion is bad for other countries in the area. (Ø)

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King Hussein: Yes, sir. I am starting shortly to Saudi Arabia and Iraq. They are also upset that things have reached this point. I really implore you, sir, to keep calm. We want to deal with this in an Arab context, to find a way that gives us a better foundation for the future. (Ø)

The President: I'm also worried about Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and about our other friends. The world should not accept the status quo now and consider this a fait accompli. It is unacceptable to the United States. I'm sure that Saddam Hussein knows this but you can tell him that from me. (Ø)

King Hussein: They are determined to pull out as soon as possible, maybe in days. We will push for it. (Ø)

The President: Well, that sounds optimistic, but if it happens it would be very good. I respect you and your views on this; they are really valuable. We will try to remain calm but we cannot acquiesce in the status quo. We are doing certain things to express our position. (Ø)

King Hussein: I spoke to your Charge d' Affaires in Amman this morning, and I hope he has sent you a full report. (Ø)

The President: Good. Jim Baker also saw Shevardnadze; they had a very positive meeting. (Ø)

The President and King Hussein then chatted about social and family matters, until President Mubarak came on the line at 12:26. (U)

President Mubarak: How are you? (U)

The President: Great. How's my good friend? I had a call into to you so I'm delighted that you are together with King Hussein so we can all talk. I wanted your advice on these terrible events. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I agree it's terrible. We are trying hard to solve this, to find a good solution for withdrawal and not throwing away the regime. (Ø)

The President: I had all kinds of requests from Kuwait. I wanted to get your thoughts about this. (Ø)

President Mubarak: George, give us two days to find a solution. (Ø)

The President: OK. I have taken some actions regarding economic issues, on aid, CCC credits, Ex-Im financing. The only exception is of course if there are threats to Americans -- that would be a whole new ballgame. (Ø)

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President Mubarak: I agree with you about the sanctions and the American lives. King Hussein will try to get a withdrawal and restoration of the regime. (S)

The President: I realize the dangers of precipitate action. Let's stay in close touch. I would appreciate your constant advice. (S)

President Mubarak: I will talk to Saddam Hussein right now. I am also in contact with the Saudis. (S)

The President: That is very important. Please tell Saddam Hussein that the United States is very concerned about this action. We are very concerned that other forces will be released -- you know what that means, my friend. Tell Saddam that if you like. (S)

President Mubarak: I will do so. King Hussein will press for withdrawal and restoration of the Kuwaiti regime -- or this will be an even bigger disaster. (S)

The President: Good. Love to all of your family. I think if anyone can do it, you can be successful. (U)

President Mubarak: I'm used to these disasters in our area. (U)

The President: I'll pray for you, and you get your diplomacy going. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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