

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada on August 4, 1990 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Philip Zelikow, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME August 4, 1990, 5:38 - 5:56pm EST
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Fine. You've got a hot one going there. (U)

The President: Yes, by the tail. I've just talked with the Emir, in his bunker. He's determined to go back, and he's willing to compensate Turkey if they get the nerve to close the pipeline. Are you interested in a little fill? (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Yes. (U)

The President: I've been active, making lots of calls. Helmut, Margaret, Francois, Kaifu, King Fahd, Hussein, Salih, Ozal, and the Emir just now. I've probably left out one or two. (S)

Our bottom line has been: All the Iraqis out, restore the Emir, no puppet government. All agree, except for King Hussein -- he's far over with Saddam. No one wants to acquiesce with a puppet regime. Sanctions won't be lifted until the troops are out. Ozal talked with Rafsanjani and Asad, they agree too. You saw the joint statement with Moscow. If we were worried about the Soviets supplying weapons, it would be a different situation. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: That's good news from Moscow, from Baker. (S)

The President: We had a good meeting here today. Baker was clearly having trouble staying awake. (S)

We're increasing our forces in the region. The British and French are increasing their presence. We're determined to push

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for chapter VII sanctions at the UN. Countries have been receptive. It's pretty encouraging. We're pushing to put in an economic blockade: interdict oil, with the pipelines in Saudi Arabia and Turkey to be shut down. That's oil. Arms are another matter. (S)

Ozal doesn't want to be alone. I've been trying to find Manfred Woerner to work with NATO to encourage Ozal. He's not as worried about an attack as about forcing Iraq back to the status quo ante and then having to live with them in the region. (S)

I'm concerned about the military situation on the ground, so is King Fahd. He's cautious about our moving forces to support the Saudi military. We're sending a high level mission to Saudi Arabia to flesh out the options. They'll go tomorrow. That hasn't been made public. I'm determined that this man will not carry the day. (S)

Kaifu has been supportive. He's very concerned. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: This is deeply troubling. On the economic side, Canada cosponsored the resolution in the Security Council and will support all initiatives to put on economic sanctions -- where we can be more helpful. Canadian banks have been directed not to act on Kuwaiti instructions without instructions from us. That will have the same effect as a freeze. Kuwaiti assets here are quite substantial. (S)

The President: There's been good united action there. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Closing the two pipelines, wouldn't that do it? (S)

The President: Those are the two that matter. We'll see. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: How would you rate our chance of success in getting the pipelines closed? (S)

The President: On a scale of 1 to 10, about a 4. The odds will increase if we can get a sanctions resolution at the UN. Kuwait will reimburse Turkey for money they might lose. (S)

The Saudis are playing a strange, cautious game. The Arabs are reluctant to take or encourage us to take real actions. They're wringing their hands. They're scared of a madman. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Will the Saudis allow the US to land? Joint maneuvers? (S)

The President: The big question is a joint mission. They wouldn't allow it yet. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Mubarak says the Arabs can solve this alone, or it would be a great shame. (S)

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The President: That is Saddam's and Hussein's line. Mubarak wanted time to get an Arab solution. He asked for 48 hours, which passed 12 hours ago. We need a solution that reverses this thing. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Hussein was pretty chummy with Saddam. (S)

The President: It's very disappointing. He's isolated himself with other Arabs. He's apologized for this guy Saddam. He's cooked his goose with America. Kissing this guy at the height of the crisis. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I had Hussein here. We took a risk, made him the first Arab leader to address our parliament. We viewed him as moderate and reasonable. But kissing Saddam. (S)

The President: I know him well and love Hussein, but he's cooked his goose here, especially with the Congress. Israel attacked him, we defended him. Now it is too much. (S)

Fahd said there's been looting in Kuwait, houses broken into. I say we shouldn't let this happen, and he agrees. But there is still foot-dragging. (S)

I don't want reckless action militarily, but I'm worried. I don't contemplate patience with another Embassy in Iran situation. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Are American citizens in danger? (S)

The President: They're OK. There are still some unanswered things. Iraq has a powerful military, but he hasn't been involved in a fight against real power, with long supply lines. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Have you been getting good support from Mitterrand? (S)

The President: Strong and solid. I didn't talk with him about getting NATO together to encourage Ozal to close the pipeline. The rest was ok. Brent thought he was very good. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: My view is that NATO should be right with the Turks. If they cut the pipeline, it wouldn't hurt for NATO to be next to them and showing the flag. (S)

The President: Ozal's looking for something to take it out from being Turkish unilateral action. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: We ought to get a communique from NATO. (S)

The President: Anything you can do. I'm trying to find Manfred Woerner. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Turkey is having trouble getting into Europe because of their Islamic background. They're good members of NATO. We must stand with them. (S)

The President: You might give Ozal a call, see if it would help to have NATO with him. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I will call. We'll support you 100% at the UN. (S)

The President: If we control Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets, and can get one or both pipelines down -- it could cool Saddam down quick. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I will call friends in NATO. I'll get back to you. It's awfully difficult. Unless the Saudis let you in, it will be very hard. Congress. It would be a bloody way to do it. (S)

The President: I'm confident we can prevail. It could cost a lot of money. There are many other things we can do without matching ground troops for ground troops. Air power. We need to know the guy wants us to defend him. If he doesn't, we can do it for him. (S)

-- End of Conversation --