

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Sheikh Zayyid of the United Arab Emirates (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Sheikh Zayyid of the United Arab Emirates
Interpreter: Shukran Kamal
Notetaker: C. David Welch

DATE, TIME August 8, 1990, 1:36 - 2:00 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: How are you? (U)

Sheikh Zayyid: Fine. (U)

The President: I wanted to share a few thoughts with you and get your views on the situation. (U)

Sheikh Zayyid: Thank you. (U)

The President: I would like to run through a couple of talking points, and then invite your advice, sir. As I'm sure that you know by now, I have agreed to King Fahd's request that U.S. forces deploy to Saudi Arabia to help in the defense of the Kingdom in the event of Iraqi aggression. Some forces are already there; others are on the way. I made the point in a speech to our nation this morning that our troops would be ready to defend themselves, Saudi Arabia, and our other friends in the Gulf. I view the Emirates as long time friends of the United States. I want you to know that I was thinking of you when I made my decision. We will stand by our friends. I also know that our mission must be successful, or Iraq will not be deterred and kicked out of Kuwait. To some degree, success depends on help of other countries in the area there. If you agree with what we and Saudi Arabia have done, I would like your political endorsement of Saudi Arabia's decision and our deployment because this would send the right political signal of our firm solidarity to the other Arabs and especially to Iraq. Our forces -- a long way from home -- will also be needing considerable host nation support, particularly access to facilities throughout the Emirates. I hope you can ask your people to help in this regard.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
CA 8/21/2009
2000-0429-F

I can understand that with your responsibilities, you may have been concerned about our posture and our determination in the face of Saddam's brutal aggression. I hope it is unmistakably clear by now that we intend to stand by our friends. Iraq is not going to win this confrontation. Again, I hope that you can help politically and on the ground. If you have any specific requests or advice, or if you need special help, please feel free to ask me or Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz, who will be visiting in your area very shortly. (S)

Sheikh Zayyid: Mr. President, we welcome the presence of U.S. troops in the area and your assistance as friends. We welcome and accept everything you need in this regard. (S)

The President: That is very good to hear. I'm not surprised but I am very, very pleased. (S)

Sheikh Zayyid: Thank you. You will find our men and children by your side; we welcome your help here as friends. (S)

The President: The Kuwaiti Ambassador here told me of terrible reports of brutality, blowing up banks, plundering and stealing. Do you have any reports of that sort from Kuwait? (S)

Sheikh Zayyid: These reports are true. It is even worse than that -- they are violating people and doing terrible things to them. (S)

The President: I hope Saddam Hussein will get the word. He is so brutal and tough that his withdrawing won't be easy. But we will be there until it happens. (S)

Sheikh Zayyid: You will find us also determined to stand up to this brutal man and resist him. We offered him a lot and it did no good. (S)

The President: I appreciate these words of common purpose. I salute you and best wishes for your wonderful country. Let's stay in touch. (U)

Sheikh Zayyid: Thank you. Do not hesitate to ask for anything that you may need and your people should not either. (S)

The President: Thank you. (U)

Sheikh Zayyid: Thank you. Your generosity exceeds mine. (U)

-- End of Conversation --