

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister  
Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis  
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff (notetaker)

DATE, TIME August 22, 1990, 11:44-11:49 a.m.  
AND PLACE Kennebunkport

The President: Hello. How are you, Mr. Prime Minister? (U)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Good morning, Mr. President. (U)

The President: Good morning. I am calling to thank you for your courageous actions in support of the multinational effort to maintain sanctions against Iraq. Your government has taken a courageous position and we appreciate it. (U)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Thank you very much. I appreciate your call and the opportunity to talk. (U)

The President: I understand your opposition has criticized your actions. We were very encouraged by your government's statement of a few days ago reaffirming Greek support for international efforts to counter Iraqi aggression and restore Kuwaiti sovereignty. I also wanted to mention that we were pleased by your contribution of a frigate to the multinational naval force and by your permission of overflights. I am told that Greece participated in the WEU meeting yesterday and we were pleased by its results. (U)

I do think it is important for free countries to stay together to make this an international opposition to Saddam Husayn. He is trying to make it a U.S.-Iraq conflict when it is much more than that--it is an international conflict with Iraq. (U)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Thank you. Greece is firmly resolved to follow its line. We have had trouble with the opposition, yes, but we will not change. We also have economic problems because of this crisis, especially due to our previous arrangements with Iraq on oil. But this is no reason to change our position. You can count on Greece. (U)

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The President: I don't know if you are aware that we have asked your government for permission for KC-135 tankers to be stationed temporarily in Greece to help with our deployment in the Gulf. I hope you can agree to this request. (S)

We talked in June about building a more hopeful era in U.S.-Greek relations. Your actions have proven that. I was with some Greek-Americans yesterday and they and I are very hopeful about the future of our relationship. They are very proud of you. (S)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Thank you. We are prepared to do anything we can on this common effort. You can count on us. (U)

The President: I am very grateful for that statement. Please stay in touch. We should stay in touch on this. (U)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: What is the position of China and the USSR on the UN resolution? (U)

The President: We will know very soon. The USSR has been supportive overall on this crisis, but dragged its feet yesterday in the UN. They want to wait but we will try to get their support for a formal UN resolution. The Chinese won't vote against a resolution but favor a multilateral force in naval and ground forces. I hope the new UN resolution tracks with the WEU statement yesterday. And I hope we get both their support. We do want a resolution soon. There are several ships underway in the Gulf to possibly violate sanctions. We cannot afford that. (S)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Good. Thank you very much. I appreciated your call. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

- End of Conversation -