

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President George Vassiliou of Cyprus

Participants: The President
President George Vassiliou
Adrian Basora, NSC Staff (notetaker)

DATE, TIME August 25, 1990, 2:05-2:05 p.m. 2:07-2:12 p.m.
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Hello Mr. Prime Minister. What's going on? (U)

President Vassiliou: Thanks for calling Mr. President. I want to express admiration for the cool and measured way in which you are handling the crisis. You have made it clear to the world that there is no reason for panicking and that each step that you have taken has been seriously considered. (S)

The President: The UN Security Council resolution last night was a very important victory. (S)

President Vassiliou: Yes, it was excellent. I want you to know that when the UN imposed sanctions on Iraq, Cyprus immediately stopped all trade. This included our oil imports and our very substantial exports to Iraq. We are happy to have the United States using bases in Cyprus as a transit point and we are ready to do anything else we can to support you. **(The telephone conversation was cut at this point and reestablished 2 minutes later).** (S)

The President: I appreciate all that you have done. (S)

President Vassiliou: If there is any other service or facility that we can offer, please let us know. (S)

The President: I had heard of your extraordinary cooperation and I admire it. We will continue to try to enforce the will of the UN. (S)

President Vassiliou: If they do not comply with the UN resolutions, then there is no long-term option. A long-term embargo would be counterproductive. (S)

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The President: I agree. An embargo will not work unless it has an impact very quickly. The way that Husayn has taken hostages, and the way that he is treating them, is an international offense that should be punished in the same way that the war criminals at Nuremberg were punished. (S)

President Vassiliou: Yes, he is absolutely ruthless. It is not for me to give you advise, but I believe that, as soon as your forces are ready, then you should move on. Even if the embargo works, you will win the battle but lose the war. In a long embargo, Husayn will become the hero of the Arab world. (S)

The President: Yes -- although I feel better now that we have U.S. troops there and contingents from other nations. At least, Saudi Arabia is now safe. (S)

President Vassiliou: Yes, but when your forces are there and ready, you must move on. (S)

The President: I think you are right, but we are working hard in the meantime to get a resolution. (S)

President Vassiliou: I support you 100 percent. (S)

The President: I am very grateful for your support. I agree that a long-term stalemate is not good enough. Thank you for calling. (S)

President Vassiliou: Thank you, Mr. President (U)

-- End of Conversation --