

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Kaifu of Japan on August 29, 1990

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Kaifu
Interpreter: Francis Seeds
Notetaker: Peter Watson

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: August 29, 1990, 7:02 - 7:17 a.m.
The Oval Office

The President: Toshiko, how are you? (U)

PM Kaifu: Fine, thank you. (U)

The President: Delighted to hear from you, what's on your mind? (U)

PM Kaifu: At the outset, once again let me express my highest respect for the way you have been handling Iraq. We understand the fact that the United States people are now trying to defend freedom with their youth and exposing many lives to danger and incurring great financial difficulties. (U)

During our last call, I understood the seriousness of your commitment to the situation - which I understand further from the visit of Foreign Minister Nakayama to the region, who also advised me of the expectations of the front-line states. I have just been briefed by my Ambassador to Washington who has advised me of the situation in the United States. Accordingly, we have considered all of the options open to us to see how we can help, with the exception of sending our self-defense forces, which has significant constitutional limitations. Following this review, we have decided on a number of measures, and I will announce those at a press conference today. (U)

The first measure we are taking is to provide assistance to the United States and the Multi-National Forces ("MNF") in areas of transportation, equipment, medical supplies and medical personnel. In particular, we will be supplying materials and equipment such as shelter and water supply to the MNF. In this respect, we will exert maximum effort to ensure the means of transportation and financial assistance to the MNF. (U)

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We will also extend a substantial scale of economic support to the negatively-affected states such as Jordan, Turkey and Egypt, as well as bearing substantial assistance for the flood of refugees. (Ø)

Also, while there are political and legal difficulties, I will try to increase public support to formulating a new law to allow our self-defense forces to play a role in global situations. (Ø)

I am fully aware of the need for the Japanese contribution to be very visible. Actually this is not at all easy, and I have to give serious thought as to how I implement the initiatives I have described. (Ø)

But I must stress that I must strongly condemn the taking by Iraq of our citizens, and I look forward to our continued close cooperation to obtain the release of our people. (Ø)

The President: When will you be announcing publicly your initiatives? (Ø)

PM Kaifu: I will announce these in a press conference I am holding in less than an hour. (U)

The President: Good. These are helpful first steps and will be well received. Later today, I will be meeting with my senior advisors to review total overall needs, both our own - the U.S. has expended many resources - but also looking at more global needs. Though I think your initiatives are well received, I will be back in contact with you after we have adopted our plan of assistance with additional ideas for your help. In this respect, it would be helpful if you could describe your package as an initial one so we could consult to determine what additional assistance Japan and the United States can provide. (Ø)

I think Japan's role, globally, and that of the United States, is being carefully watched, and I want to be sure nothing comes out of this that will allow criticism of the U.S./Japan relationship, which both of us consider to be so important. (Ø)

PM Kaifu: I fully agree. I wish to continue to exert utmost efforts to avoid any such criticism and to obtain the understanding of the American people. Accordingly, we will be considering additional financial support for the MNF. (Ø)

The President: We are pleased with this - we appreciate the close cooperation between us; it is very important that we stay together. I hope that the sanctions are very effective; however, the jury is still very much out on that. (Ø)

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PM Kaifu: I agree, and hope that the economic sanctions can be effective to bring peace back to the region. And again, we deeply appreciate your dedicated efforts in maintaining peace in the region. (Q)

The President: Thank you. We will be watching your announcement and how it is received. Thank you for the courtesy of this call. (Q)

PM Kaifu: Thank you. (U)

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