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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Turgut
Ozal of Turkey

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Ozal
Stephen Benko, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

TIME, DATE September 6, 1990, 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: How are you, sir? I'm glad to hear your voice.
(U)

I am calling because I understand you have some thoughts to share before my meeting with Gorbachev in Helsinki. (S)

President Ozal: I received your letter. First of all, I think this is a very important meeting. The Gulf crisis has come at a time when the East-West dialogue was going forward, when we were helping the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. We should stop the crisis as soon as possible. (S)

The President: I agree with you on that. I do think this diverted attention from what we were doing. We'll be talking about that with Gorbachev. What do you think about the Gulf situation? (S)

President Ozal: Many innocent people are being hurt. Thousands and thousands of people are in camps in Turkey and Jordan. There are up to one and a half million. The number will increase in case of armed conflict. The plight of these people should cause further action. We are providing shelter and hot food for those coming from Iraq. We have provided flights for Bangladeshis, Turkish Air is flying people and we are chartering other flights. We are doing better than Jordan. (S)

The President: It doesn't surprise me. Some of our Congressmen just returned yesterday, and they emphasized the human tragedy of it all. (S)

President Ozal: I suggest you emphasize with Gorbachev all the tragedy caused by the invasion of Kuwait. There are many Bangladeshis, Indians, Pakistanis; they are all poor people. Saddam has to pay for this. (S)

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The President: I agree, and I think Gorbachev will agree. (S)

President Ozal: This is the biggest issue since World War II.
(S)

The President: As we discussed last week, I'm looking forward to seeing you when you are in the U.S. (S)

President Ozal: There is another point. The embargo will yield results, and it looks like it is working now. Some Iraqi soldiers came to us. They said that eight years of war were for nothing, and they say that if the U.S. attacks all Iraqi soldiers will come to Turkey. (S)

The President: Is that right? Will they be willing to make public statements in Turkey? (S)

President Ozal: I don't know. They can if they want. (S)

The President: It might be an interesting signal to the world. If they make the view known that they're tired of war and they're demoralized, maybe Saddam Hussein will change. (S)

President Ozal: We will look at it. There is another point you could raise with Gorbachev which is whether it is possible to make a UN resolution enabling military intervention. We wouldn't have to use it, but it would be like a Damocles sword over Iraq and would help bring a peaceful solution. (S)

The President: Gorbachev has been opposed publicly to military intervention. I have no problem raising it with him. Saddam Hussein has to know that the status quo will not last with us or the world. (S)

President Ozal: Yes, the status quo is not good. We need to make a resolution to see what Iraq will say. If not, you have the legal right. (S)

The President: Up to now Gorbachev has been reluctant to go along with a military resolution, but I'll raise it with him.
(S)

President Ozal: We could also give him time, say, two months. This sword and the embargo could win. (S)

The President: We need to convince him in some way. I am concerned that he will do something stupid, with terror, or something stupid with the hostages. Then we would have to respond. (S)

President Ozal: Or he may do something else, throw something at Israel. (S)

The President: Do you think so? (S)

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President Ozal: He could. He has been talking about a holy war and is anti-Israel. It is all coming together, and he wants to be the hero of the Arab world. (S)

The President: That question was raised by some of our Congressmen with the Arab leaders. They said they'd stand by us if he attacked Israel. I don't know -- you'd be a better judge. (S)

President Ozal: If he thinks he has no hope he might. But if the UN would adopt this resolution and then wait a month or two, then he would yield. (S)

The President: I like the idea, and I will raise it with Gorbachev. But I can assure you that I will make no deal with Gorbachev that will undermine the position that Turkey and others have taken. (S)

President Ozal: Just one more point. As a neighbor of Iraq, that country is of interest to us. We will discuss it in Washington. (S)

The President: I will be very interested to hear your views. Good luck. I appreciate your calling. The visit with Gorbachev should go well, but we need to bring the Soviets in line with what Turkey is doing. (S)

President Ozal: We are very close to the Soviets, especially in the economic area. (S)

The President: All right. Thank you, and goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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