

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to President Turgut Ozal of Turkey (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, President
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: September 10, 1990, 10:08 - 10:19 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

After opening greetings, the President reviewed his meetings with President Gorbachev in Helsinki. (U)

The President: Let me stress that no behind-the-scene deals were struck during the meeting. I was pleased that the Soviets were on board but found them reluctant to use force. I explained that force must be an option, but the Soviets maintained that they did not want force to be employed. Gorbachev was frank in his criticism of Saddam, and I believe he wants to get his military observers and advisors out. All in all, the meeting went as well as we could have hoped. It sent a signal to you and others that the Soviet Union will not oppose our common effort. They did not try to back down from sanctions. Regarding food aid, they accepted our definition of humanitarian assistance. So, the meeting sent a strong signal to Saddam Hussein that his once strongest ally is no longer dependable. (U)

President Ozal: I noticed from the television coverage that he was very good. I am looking forward to my meeting with you. Maybe I will have some information regarding the visit of Tariq Aziz in Iran. (U)

The President: I would be very interested in that. We need all the information we can get. What do you think will come out of it? (U)

President Ozal: It is a very difficult situation. The Iraqis are knocking on every door. I will learn what they have talked about. (U)

The President: I am interested in that. You have told me that the sanctions will have an effect. Indications like that suggest the sanctions are really biting. (U)

President Ozal: Yes. People in Iraq are not really able to talk, but they are not thinking favorably about Saddam. (U)

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The President: I hope not. I don't want Iran breaking off. I think it would be hard for them to do so, after their long war with Iraq. (Ø)

President Ozal: I don't think that will happen. They will get what they want. But they told my very clearly they are very much against Saddam. (Ø)

The President: If they just stay firm, that will be good. I wanted to give you this first-hand report and let you know I am very encouraged. There were differences: they are very reluctant to talk about the use of force. I didn't push, but said we would have to talk further if the situation changed. I assured him we didn't want to use force, but who knows? There could be some terrorist act that compels us to respond. (Ø)

President Ozal: We will see. Your meeting with Gorbachev sent a very clear signal to Saddam Hussein and Iraq, that they will have to accept the UN Security Council decisions. It may take some time before the sanctions really begin to bite. (Ø)

The President: That is encouraging. We will have to think about international organizations to supervise food deliveries to children under "humanitarian" assistance, so he won't just appeal for food and then give it to his troops. (Ø)

President Ozal: Yes. Who will send the food, and who will be paid for it? I have some doubts about medical and food aid. I saw a member of the royal family of Jordan, who told me that no ships are coming in to Aqaba because they are afraid to do so. (Ø)

The President: That's good. It shows it's working. The Indians and Brazilians are trying to get food in. If it is a legitimate question of the starvation of children, we could react. But it would need international supervision. Anyway, I hope Saddam Hussein will withdraw, but he say's he can't withdraw and still stay in power. Do you agree? (Ø)

President Ozal: Yes. How could he explain his position after his long war with Iran? (Ø)

The President: That's his problem. This is my first report. I will be calling Mitterrand and Mubarak later, but this is my first call. I would be very interested in learning about the Aziz visit to Iran and any other ideas about how to keep Iran in the game. (Ø)

President Ozal: I called Rafsanjani and asked him to send someone to Turkey, so I will have a report before I come to Washington. (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --