

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with King Baudouin of Belgium (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Andrew Card, Jr., Assistant to the President
and Deputy Special Assistant
Raymond G.H. Seitz, Assistant Secretary of
State for European and Canadian Affairs
Robert L. Hutchings, Director for European
Political Affairs, NSC Staff

King Baudouin

DATE, TIME September 30, 1990, 6:25 - 6:35 p.m.
AND PLACE: Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York

King Baudouin: How long do you think this standoff will go on with Iraq? (C)

The President: We have staying power, and others with us do, too. The more likely eventuality is that there might be some provocation. He is working with terrorists, so there is the possibility of some incident like that with the French in Djibouti. We have made it clear to Saddam Hussein that we will hold him responsible for any such acts. The conference in Jordan the other day was very disturbing. The King of Jordan has aroused anger in the Arab world. He's got a big problem, and we are not elevating the rhetoric against him. He refers to an Arab solution, but the kind he is talking about would be unacceptable to me, as well as to the Arabs and the GCC. It would be very nice to find a solution that is satisfactory. We cannot invite further aggression. But we do have staying power. (C)

King Baudouin: Once the process is open, will the King be strong enough and willing enough to solve the Palestinian Question? (C)

The President: He is trying to link the two. Bar had a meeting with Queen Noor and said this came up again. Jim is working very hard. We do want to get talks going. The U.S. is not viscerally opposed to an international conference, but what is unacceptable is linking this aggression to Israel and implying it's their fault. (C)

King Baudouin: Is there a solution? (U)

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The President: I think so. Lebanon has one set of problems. Solving the West Bank and Gaza is another. The intent should be to get at all of them, but not through linking them to Iraq's aggression. What is your perspective? (S)

King Baudoin: We should prepare Israel that the time will come to accept a solution. They should not just say no, no, no. (S)

The President: Part of the problem is that Labor supports an international conference. (S)

Secretary Baker: Your Majesty, we were down to two narrow questions, right on the cusp of agreement, but the former government would not accept two members on the Palestinian side. The government fell over this. (S)

The President: We have got to get the job done. There is a possibility of a new world order. (S)

King Baudoin: But Israel has to be prepared to move after this crisis is over. (S)

The President: We worry that Saddam Hussein may try to draw Israel in. (S)

King Baudoin: Do you think they have nuclear weapons? (S)

The President: No. (S)

Secretary Baker: Two years. (S)

King Baudoin: But they do have chemical weapons. (S)

Secretary Baker: They have extensive chemical weapons and limited biological weapons capacity. (S)

The President: If you look at the Middle East, there won't be a lasting peace until this is solved. (S)

King Baudoin: I know how difficult this is for you. Don't you think our new friends in Eastern Europe, and even the Soviet Union, can help? (S)

The President: This country has been very supportive and recognizes much more realistically the need to get a settlement. (S)

-- End of Conversation --

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