

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon to President Francois Mitterrand of France
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Francois Mitterrand
Adrian Basora, NSC Staff (Notetaker)
Alec Toumayan, Interpreter

DATE, TIME: October 11, 1990, 5:25-5:38 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Francois! (U)

President Mitterrand: Good evening once again. I have looked over the text, in English. I have two points. One is on the paragraph that requests the Secretary General to present a report in connection with his visit to Israel, and the other is on the paragraph expressing condemnation for the violence of October 8. (Reads the text, in halting English.) (S)

The President: It is on the language that deals with the Secretary General making a "recommendation on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of Palestinians under Israeli occupation" where we disagree with that text. That is the NAM paragraph. (S)

President Mitterrand: We can accept this language, but I also understand that this poses a problem for you, and so I am prepared to drop it. However, on the earlier paragraph expressing condemnation of the violence, there is language which we cannot accept. The British text says "including those committed by Israeli forces". This is not acceptable to me because it implies that the Israeli violence is secondary. In fact, it is the main point of the condemnation, not a subsidiary point. Language like this would pose a domestic political problem for me. Instead, the text ought to say "notably" or "particularly". (S)

The President: Let's make that change. I see what you mean. It makes sense to me; we accept it. Francois, I am very grateful to you. (S)

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President Mitterrand: Each of us shares the same thought even though we have differences on tactics. Our common thought is that we cannot let the Arabs line up behind Saddam Hussein. We are prepared to make war on Saddam Hussein and, therefore, we cannot appear to be indulgent with Israel. (S)

The President: I would like to read the two paragraphs again just to be sure that we understand each other. (Reads both paragraphs.) (S)

President Mitterrand: Yes. (U)

The President: I will notify our UN representative right away, and if your UN representative gets instructions soon, we should be able to wrap up this resolution quickly. My sincere thanks. (S)

President Mitterrand: I will tell Roland Dumas to send instructions to our UN Ambassador. Good work! (S)

End of Conversation