

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Turgut Ozal of Turkey

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Turgut Ozal
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff (notetaker)

DATE, TIME: October 31, 1990; 11:04-11:14 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Mr. President, how are you? (U)

President Ozal: I am fine, thank you. (U)

The President: I am calling in the spirit of our cooperation on the Gulf issue. I wanted to give you advance notice of my intention to travel to the Middle East in mid-November after the Paris CSCE meeting. I am going to visit the American troops to give visible support to our policy of maintaining very strong sanctions against Iraq. Because I have been so pleased by your magnificent cooperation, I wanted you to hear this from me first. (S)

There is another question. You graciously invited me to come to Turkey. The last American President to visit Turkey, and you reminded me of this when we last met, was Eisenhower. What I want, if it is okay with you, is to come to Turkey after the signing of the START agreement in Moscow in January 1991. I would stop by Greece too. I want to know if you can agree to that plan. Also, I think we should carve out time in Paris at CSCE for you and I to have a good, substantive talk. That is essential. I would like to announce my intention to visit Turkey after our meeting in Paris. (U)

President Ozal: What I understand is that you will visit us after Moscow in January 1991. Will you visit Greece? (U)

The President: Yes, after Turkey. Is that okay? (U)

President Ozal: That is okay. (U)

The President: I had been thinking of coming to see you after Paris in November, but the schedule is terrible and I don't want to stop for just a few hours. (U)

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President Ozal: Okay. January is good for us. That is better. You have to visit your troops in the Gulf now. We will talk in Paris. (S)

The President: Yes. I want to have a good bilateral in Paris. I would announce my visit to Turkey. The only question is the exact dates for Moscow. (S)

President Ozal: Okay, Mr. President. That suits us. You will announce the visit and will say that we do not know exactly when it will be, but that you will come. (S)

The President: Definitely. (U)

I have a few comments on the Gulf situation. When we last talked, we had a very useful discussion of the sanctions. As you know Secretary Baker will be coming to Ankara next week. (S)

President Ozal: I know. I will see him. (U)

The President: I am pleased you will see him. He will fill you in on the details of our military strategy and will answer any questions you have. Please speak as frankly to him as you would to me. He'll want to ask you certain questions that he, Brent Scowcroft and I have been discussing in the last few days. We will need to know your views on these very important questions. (S)

President Ozal: Are these mostly military matters or political/military issues? (S)

The President: Both. They involve the military, sanctions, how to have a peaceful resolution. We have to think of the military options -- what happens if there is provocation. It will be a wide-ranging discussion. We will not ask for anything and will not make any demands on you. We want to talk to the two to three critical coalition partners, of which Turkey is one, to get your views. And we will give you our views. (S)

President Ozal: I will talk to Secretary Baker. (S)

The President: What is your latest thinking on sanctions? (S)

President Ozal: Sanctions will work. I have no doubt about that. It will take time. That may squeeze you because it may take another two to three months to have a big effect. (S)

The President: Have you had any more Iraqi deserters? (S)

President Ozal: Just a few days ago, we had more than one hundred. (S)

The President: I am increasingly worried about the hostages and our Embassy in Kuwait. (S)

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President Ozal: I know, especially about your embassy. (Ø)

The President: It is a big worry. Secretary Baker will discuss the situation with you. These are sensitive issues and I don't want to go into them on the phone. He will speak to you about them in person. I look forward to seeing you in Paris. (Ø)

President Ozal: Okay. I would also like to wish you good luck in the elections. (U)

The President: We took a big hit on the deficit. (U)

President Ozal: I think that eventually people will appreciate your firm stand on the deficit. This is the first real effort on the deficit in a decade. (U)

The President: I'm glad you feel that way. I think you watch CNN more than I do! (U)

It was nice talking to you. I look forward to seeing you soon. Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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