

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Chaim Herzog of Israel (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Chaim Herzog
Notetaker: C. David Welch, NSC

DATE, TIME November 16, 1990; 3:30 - 3:34 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: Mr. President, it's good to hear your voice again. I heard you were here, and I had hoped we could get together, but unfortunately our schedules did not coincide. (U)

President Herzog: Thank you. I opened the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in San Francisco. (U)

The President: I remember your great hospitality in Israel. I am off to Czechoslovakia this evening, and I just wanted to touch base with you. Thank you for seeing Dan Quayle. How are you? (U)

President Herzog: Well, I have a bad cold. Tokyo was very interesting. I met with Perez de Cuellar to iron out the Security Council problems. I invited him to come to Israel for a state visit, with Aime to come in advance to work out the details. (U)

The President: I appreciate your constructive role. We are also trying to keep it out of the Security Council, but certain elements -- those close to Saddam Hussein -- are trying to keep it there. (U)

President Herzog: We need to make a major effort to keep it out. There are elements that want to divert attention from your saving us from this lunatic. We should not be the whipping boy at the United Nations. (U)

The President: I am not happy with our relations. I would have liked to have a quiet chat with you. We have a little communication problem, and I'm not happy about it. If you ever have some quiet thoughts I would welcome them, just let me know. (C)

President Herzog: I would be very happy to do so, Mr. President. I spoke to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, and I made remarks to the effect that but for you, this bully might have gotten away with it. (U)

The President: I'm grateful for your kind remarks. I'm very sorry to miss you. How long are you with us? (U)

President Herzog: I will be in the United States until Wednesday. As I said, the consequences of failure would be catastrophic. (U)

The President: Don't worry, we won't fail. (U)

President Herzog: I had a good chat with Ozal. He's a good man. I told him that Iraq is overrated as a military power. (U)

The President: Well, convincing people is a big concern to us all. I have written an article for Newsweek which I hope helps. I was glad to have this opportunity to say hello to an old friend. (U)

President Herzog: You are saving the lives of millions and I will make it clear in all that I say. (U)

The President: Thanks. I'm glad to have this opportunity to say hello. I recall so very well that nice dinner in your garden. Some day we will reciprocate. (U)

President Herzog: You are welcome in Israel anytime, Mr. President. (U)

-- End of Conversation --