

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Presidential Phone Call to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Fahd
C. David Welch, NSC
Shukran Kamal, Interpreter

DATE, TIME November 30, 1990; 12:05 - 12:18 p.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President initiated the call.

The President: I'm calling in regard... I don't know if you saw my press conference a few minutes ago. (P)

King Fahd: Yes. I saw it. I am very pleased. (P)

The President: My sending Jim Baker to Baghdad in no way is a weakening; no way is it a concession; he will do nothing but explain to Saddam Hussein that he must get out of Kuwait. Sending Jim Baker to Baghdad is one final step to get to peace after the United Nations (Security Council) resolution (678). There will be no conceding, no concession. I wanted to tell you first, after my decision last night. You have been so steadfast, I wanted to tell you first and get your advice if you have any. Lastly, Your Majesty, I don't know whether Saddam Hussein will see Jim Baker or if he will send Tariq Aziz, we've had no contact with them. But if Tariq Aziz comes, your Ambassador is invited to sit in on the meeting. I welcome any thoughts you have but I hope you understand that this strengthens our position because we've gone the extra mile. We have not changed our position on the military or anything else. (P)

King Fahd: First, thank you for the call, if it proves anything it proves the strength and depth of the friendship between our two nations. At the same time, this decision is very wise. Anyone who talks about it will have to conclude that we want peace, but peace on principles. At the same time, I believe that this is the last message we can address to Saddam Hussein to tell him the opportunity is now to withdraw from Kuwait and go back to Iraqi land. (P)

The President: I agree. (U)

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King Fahd: At the same time, we hear talk from Europe, Asia, and Africa and some Arabs about Saddam Hussein wanting to withdraw from Kuwait, but that he wants to discuss it with the United States. (Ø)

The President: Please tell all that his withdrawal cannot be by keeping some island, access to the Gulf, or something else. We will not discuss any such thing. (Ø)

King Fahd: I know your steadfast position. This decision to be in touch with Saddam Hussein after obtaining U.N. members support through the U.N. resolution is from a position of strength. (Ø)

The President: We will stay in close touch. You are the first to hear of this decision. I will give your Ambassador a transcript of my press conference. (Ø)

King Fahd: In any case, let me repeat that this step is very wise, practical and positive, which should benefit all. (U)

The President: Thank you, and thank you for a wonderful visit. (U)

King Fahd: Thank you for calling me first. I am sure that our next meeting will be in the United States. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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