

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from Turkish President Turgut Ozal

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE December 1, 1990; 4:35-4:46 p.m.  
Camp David

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

President Ozal: I am fine. (U)

The President: We're up at Camp David this weekend. (U)

President Ozal: I am also at a winter place for the weekend.  
(U)

The President: Thank you for calling. (U)

President Ozal: I read the transcript of your press conference. And I saw the tape of your press conference. It was very, very good. (Ø)

The President: I hope so. I appreciate your remarks. The Saudis were also pleased, although Bandar, their Ambassador here, had some reservations. But King Fahd thought it was a good idea. (Ø)

President Ozal: The problem is that Saddam Hussein is using the line at home that America is softening. He will say that the Palestinian question must be linked. (Ø)

The President: He is saying that when Baker comes over, everyone else should meet with him, including Arab groups like the PLO, the Libyans, I mean the Lebanese. We are saying that we will meet with Aziz alone here, and that Baker and Saddam should meet alone in Baghdad with no outsiders. We want to keep him from bringing in other countries and groups. (Ø)

President Ozal: They talk about a link to the Palestinian question -- is that true? (Ø)

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The President: No. They made that statement. My statement was carefully drawn. I have no intention of linking the two issues. (S)

President Ozal: If I were you, I would clarify it. I would say I will listen, but won't discuss these other issues. (S)

The President: That is a good idea. I will pass it along to Baker. We will listen, but not discuss these issues. (S)

President Ozal: In any case, you must listen. (U)

The President: But not negotiate. We have to be careful Saddam Hussein doesn't expand the agenda. (S)

President Ozal: I'm with you. You were very clear talking to the press after your speech. (S)

The President: This is important. We will put out a statement to clarify. I will tell Scowcroft to get the statement out. The Tariq Aziz meeting will be important, but the Baker-Saddam Hussein meeting will be more so. (S)

President Ozal: There is a possibility that some important Iraqis may come to see me quietly. This is a possibility. I have not yet decided. I wanted to consult with you first. There is no problem. We will stay together. There will be no conditions and no mixing the Palestinian question. I sent a message that we cannot talk if they want to negotiate. If they do send an important person, I will call you afterward to report. (S)

The President: When will this happen? (S)

President Ozal: Probably by the end of the week. I am not telling anyone, not even members of the government. (S)

The President: I won't mention it here to anyone except Scowcroft and Baker. I think it is good to do. If we all stay together and present the same line, he will get a clearer view of his situation. (S)

President Ozal: This is acceptable. These meetings show the weakness of Saddam Hussein, not the strength. You clearly stated there would be no negotiations, face to face. (S)

The President: Exactly. It was clearly stated. I hope everyone understands that. Did you talk to Fahd? (S)

President Ozal: No. (U)

The President: I want to be sure he is happy. He said it was a wonderful thing yesterday. But I just want to cross every T. But Bandar was uneasy. If you talk to him, I would like to know what you think Fahd really feels. Mubarak, Mitterrand, and Major all told me the same thing -- they are enthusiastic. (S)

President Ozal: I see. The day after tomorrow, a Saudi Prince will visit with a message from the King. I will talk to him to find out. I think it is the Interior Minister. (Ø)

The President: Good. Please see what they think. The Ambassador may have felt left out. This is interesting. I appreciate the call. If you learn anything, I would be interested to know. (Ø)

President Ozal: When do you leave for South America? (U)

The President: I leave tomorrow and return Friday. (U)

President Ozal: I will call you over the weekend. (U)

The President: The airplane has very good communications. It is easy to talk. The Iraqis are sending a message about the Tariq Aziz meeting. They are using the fact that I said some allied Ambassadors could participate in the meeting with Tariq Aziz to argue that other Arab groups should meet with Baker in Baghdad. Our statement will say that the Baker meeting should be one-on-one with no outsiders. They used the coalition Ambassadors as an excuse for the PLO and others to be in the Baker meeting. It is better that Baker meet directly without these groups. (Ø)

President Ozal: George, they are trying to save face for the Arab people, the local population. But they really want to talk with you. (Ø)

The President: The meetings will go forward. (Ø)

President Ozal: Very good. The results in your country will be positive. (U)

The President: The results have been good so far. I met with the JCS today, the military leadership. They are getting ready and prepared. There will be no pulling back. It was a good meeting. We have strong forces. You'll be interested in this: there are 600 trains moving our forces and equipment from Germany. (Ø)

President Ozal: Very good. (U)

The President: When Saddam Hussein understands all this, maybe he will get out. (Ø)

President Ozal: One last point. Remember I asked in Paris about the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Our candidate is Ambassador Turkmen. I believe that if you support him, Mr. Perez de Cuellar will accept him too. There is one French candidate and Turkmen. I believe Perez de Cuellar will accept ours if you support him too. (Ø)

The President: I am sorry to say I do not know the status of our own thinking. We will get back to you on this. Good-bye, Mr.

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President. (Ø)

President Ozal: Thank you. Good-bye. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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