

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President
Francois Mitterrand of France

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

DATE, TIME December 24, 1990, 2:08-2:15 p.m.
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: Francois, comment allez vous? I am just calling to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am with my family at Camp David and our spirits are good for the Christmas season, despite the difficult times. (U)

President Mitterrand: Thank you. Please give my warm regards to your family and my Christmas greetings. Is it cold there at Camp David? (U)

The President: Yes, and Barbara is out for one of her long walks in the cold. (U)

President Mitterrand: Is it a good cold? Are your children there? (U)

The President: Yes, it is a refreshing cold. The rest of my children and grandchildren arrive tonight, all except for two. Are you in Paris, or at your country home? (U)

President Mitterrand: I am in the country for a few days. (U)

The President: Listen, I don't want to talk business on Christmas Eve, but I would like to consider sending a very high-level emissary to visit you soon after the first of January to discuss the Gulf and a few other issues. (S)

President Mitterrand: I will be back in Paris on the morning of January 3. (U)

The President: I much appreciated your strong statement on the Gulf the other day. Would you be able to receive Brent Scowcroft, or someone else, soon after January 3? (S)

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President Mitterrand: Yes, certainly. I will receive him as soon as he arrives. We will then be in a more difficult time frame. (S)

The President: Yes, we will. I don't see any sign of change by Saddam Hussein, nor any room for flexibility on our part. (S)

President Mitterrand: Yes, that is right, as long as things remain as they are. But I am not sure that Saddam Hussein will not show some movement before January 15. (S)

The President: Perhaps, peut-etre, peut-etre. (U)

President Mitterrand: I hope you will have a good Christmas Eve with your family. You know you can reach me at any time. (U)

The President: I hesitated to call during your private holiday, but I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate our personal relationship. (U)

President Mitterrand: This is the time of year when one likes to be in touch with one's friends. Have a happy 1991!

The President: Let's keep in touch. Have a Merry Christmas.

-- End of Conversation --

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