

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Shamir
Notetaker: John Montgomery

DATE, TIME January 7, 1991, 1500 - 1510 EDT
AND PLACE: the White House

The President: Mr. Prime Minister, How are you?

PM Shamir: I am fine and happy to hear your voice.

The President: I thought our meeting in December was quite good and I want to keep up the communication. There are a couple things about the Gulf Crisis that I would like to raise with you.

First, when Jim Baker sees Tariq Aziz in Geneva, he will be very straight. Everything is exactly as we have made public: Iraq must leave Kuwait, or face catastrophe. There will be no behind the scenes negotiations, no deals, no face-saving, and no linkage. That is the underline or main spring of our policy. There is no hidden agenda, no secret emissaries. I also said publicly that we do not plan any follow-up meeting in Baghdad with Saddam himself. We are also being very direct with our European partners. We are cautioning them against diplomacy that could encourage Saddam to believe there are splits in the coalition. What the EC said officially is quite good. We don't want any appearances of splits in a diverse coalition. As this moves down the track, many are looking or hope for a peaceful solution. I think what [Luxembourg Foreign Minister] Poos said is very good.

I also would like to ask your agreement to receive Larry Eagleburger on a very quiet mission to talk to you about where I see things going. Larry is very close to me. He was at my house last night and that is what we talked about. His points will be specific and from me. This would be a continuation of the private conversation you and I had during your visit. If it is agreeable to you, I will ask Ambassador Brown to set up this very important meeting.

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CJ 8/12/2009
2000-0429-F

PM Shamir: Thank you. I know him. If he has your confidence, I will be very happy to receive him and talk with him.

The President: Yes he does. He will reflect my personal views; I consider this a confidence building mission. He is a very good man to do it. Please consider him a personal emissary.

PM Shamir: Will you be sending him soon? In the next few days?

The President: Yes, before the weekend.

PM Shamir: I will receive him at any moment and be happy to listen and to understand your views better.

The President: Wonderful, we also want to hear your views, anything you say will be important. [Deputy Secretary] Eagleburger will be in contact with me before he comes.

PM Shamir: Will Larry Eagleburger's visit be made public?

The President: I hope not, but it is up to you. It would be better if it were kept quiet. It should be a private meeting, but if word gets out, at least the subject matter should be kept confidential. The visit is not a secret mission, but would be better if it were kept a quiet mission.

PM Shamir: Good. I may have something else to convey to you.

The President: Okay. Ambassador Brown will know about the visit.

PM Shamir: OK. Very good. Thank you.

The President: As I said to you before, Israel has conducted itself with great restraint and that has helped to hold together a disparate coalition.

PM Shamir: We are maintaining a steady course.

The President: I respect that. [Deputy Secretary] Eagleburger will talk with [Ambassador] Brown who will be in touch with your appointment people to set up the meeting.

PM Shamir: I want to wish you a happy new year.

The President: Thank you and I hope you had happy holidays.

PM Shamir: I admire your strong positions in these hard times.

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The President: Don't be diverted by what's going on in Congress, there is strong support throughout the country for our position. Thank you for receiving [Deputy Secretary] Eagleburger.

PM Shamir: Thank you for the phone call.

The President: Thank you and good bye.

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