

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Francois Mitterrand of France (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Francois Mitterrand
Adrian Basora, Notetaker, NSC Staff
Interpreter, Carol Wolter

DATE, TIME January 9, 1991 3:40 - 3:45 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Francois, this is George Bush here. (U)

President Mitterrand: Good evening my dear friend. (U)

The President: I am calling to close the loop. There was nothing more in Geneva than what was said in the press conference. (S)

President Mitterrand: And what conclusion do you draw? (S)

The President: My conclusion is that we must just keep on going and trying to convince Saddam. I talked to the UN Secretary General and told him that, if he wants to make one last effort, I would not oppose it. With the failure of the Baker mission, there will be a flurry of missions. Of course, we won't oppose them. I must say, however, that I doubt that they will amount to anything. (S)

President Mitterrand: I understand. (S)

The President: I see no point in accepting Aziz's suggestion that he come here or Baker to Baghdad. Frankly, I find the suggestion futile and I have rejected it. (S)

But let us think further about the situation. I propose that both of us do so, and if you have any thoughts I would welcome them. I hope that Saddam Hussein will change his mind at the last minute, but I am doubtful. (S)

President Mitterrand: It is not impossible, but it is unlikely. (S)

I did a press conference this evening, as you know, in which I reminded the French people of the firm principle of the evacuation of Iraq as of January 15. (S)

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The President: I saw your press conference and I thought it was outstanding. I propose that we keep in contact. I would welcome any thoughts you have. Call me at any time of the day or night. I was touched by your call. Now, get some sleep! It's late where you are. (S)

President Mitterrand: I hope you have a good day! (U)

-- End of Conversation --