

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Turgut Ozal of Turkey

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
President Turgut Ozal  
Nicholas Burns (notetaker)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE January 10, 1991, 10:38-10:55 a.m.  
The Oval Office

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

President Ozal: I am very fine, George. How are you? (U)

The President: Okay, thank you. I am very glad to be able to continue our conversations which I treasure. They have meant much to me. I thought you assessment of Jim Baker's meeting with the scenes. You saw the president's agenda and no hidden talking General. He is willing to go, and not Baker. It is be U.S.-Iraq talks here a there. I will not see Az will receive him. Anyway deter us from the course

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President Ozal: I will talk to Baker on Sunday. I met the Washington Times people today. And at 6:45 p.m. today I will be on CNN. (U)

The President: With Bernard Shaw? (U)

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

President Ozal: I am very fine, George. How are you? (U)

The President: Okay, thank you. I am very glad to be able to continue our conversations which I treasure. They have meant much to me. I thought you would like to hear an assessment of Jim Baker's meeting with Aziz. There is nothing behind the scenes. You saw the press conference. There was no secret agenda and no hidden talks. I just talked to the UN Secretary General. He is willing to make the trip. It is better that he go, and not Baker. It is the last hope for peace. There won't be U.S.-Iraq talks here and Iraq agrees that Baker won't go there. I will not see Aziz. The SYG doesn't know if the Iraqis will receive him. Anyway, I heard nothing from these talks to deter us from the course we have discussed. (S)

My focus is at home. I want to get more Congressional support. I do have one request. An important Senator admires you very much--Bob Byrd. Would you be willing to call him, if you felt comfortable doing that, to ask for his support for our policy? Please think about it. I certainly don't want to get you embroiled in our internal affairs. Byrd is important and friendly. I respect him. He thinks sanctions should work longer. I don't know anyone more influential with him than you. We are asking him to support UN 678. I don't need Congress to do what I have to do. I know I don't. But it would be useful for public opinion if the Congress supported the President. If you do not feel comfortable doing this, please don't call. (S)

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President Ozal: It will be an interview by telephone. I talked to the Washington Times in order to say that to reach a peaceful solution, this is the last chance. I also said Congress should support George Bush. If Congress does this, it will help toward a peaceful solution. (U)

The President: That is very helpful. (U)

President Ozal: I'll say the same thing to CNN. Don't worry. (Ø)

The President: As we count down to the deadline, I think Saddam Hussein may try a last-minute gimmick. What do you think? (Ø)

President Ozal: Let me tell you. Yesterday when Baker saw no change and Aziz was not able to say he would pull out, he had no authority. Saddam will pull out at the last minute. (Ø)

The President: He'll say that but that is not good enough. He must be out by January 14. You may be right. (Ø)

President Ozal: Saddam Hussein will probably say around the 14th or 15th, give me more time to pull out. That may be a possibility. Or, this man is unpredictable. He may stay and think you won't make war because of world public opinion. He may underestimate your seriousness. Aziz refused to take the letter. Can I see a copy of the letter? (Ø)

The President: Yes. I'll send it through our Ambassador. It is a forceful letter. (U)

President Ozal: I think you should issue it to the public. (Ø)

The President: That is one option. But I want the debate to calm down on our side. We'll cable the letter to the Ambassador today. The letter simply said, look, here is what you are up against. There will be no negotiations, no linkage. It was forceful and direct but not rude. The reason we wrote a letter is because his people don't tell the truth. (Ø)

President Ozal: George, I had a special interview with Turkish TV a few days ago. Can you do a special interview with a reporter before you come to Turkey? (Ø)

The President: Sure. If it is helpful to you. What is his name? (Ø)

President Ozal: Mohammed ALi Birand. (U)

The President: I'll mention it to Fitzwater for the coming trip. In principle, I'll be glad to do it. It would probably have to be a short interview. (Ø)

President Ozal: He asked me why I am so hard on Saddam Hussein. I told a Turkish anecdote. A burglar came and stole from me. The next day, the people accused me of not having told anyone about it. (U)

The President: That is a good anecdote. Listen, Baker will fill me in on his visit. I'll follow up with you. I'll tell Byrd what you said in the Washington Times and tell him to watch CNN. If you are talking to him, tell him you support us. (Ø)

President Ozal: Okay. (U)

The President: Byrd is an important and good man and is an admirer of yours. (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --