

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Shamir
Notetaker: John Montgomery

DATE, TIME January 10, 1991, 10:30 - 10:34 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Mr. Prime Minister, it is good to speak to you again. (U)

PM Shamir: Mr. President, glad to hear your voice. (U)

The President: I just wanted to call and let you know that there was nothing that was said in the Baker-Aziz meeting that in any way alters what you have heard or read. There is nothing going on behind the scenes as I said in my press conference. Aziz stonewalled during the meeting and insisted on linkages leaving no doubt that Saddam Hussein is not contemplating leaving Kuwait. I remain more determined than ever that he must get out of Kuwait. My focus right now is here at home where I am trying to persuade the Congress to support me. It will be close, but I am confident that we will prevail. If Congress goes against me, the U.S. Constitution gives me the authority to go ahead. (Ø)

All of this makes your meeting with Larry Eagleburger this weekend even more critical. Larry will be carrying an important message from me. I very much appreciate your taking the time to meet with him at such short notice. Larry travels as a Presidential Emissary. Word of the trip has not become public and I will continue to keep it from becoming public. With the approach of January 15, I think that it would be helpful for both Israel and us to keep a close watch on what is said. Sometimes less is better. I will be careful here. I know it is hard there and it is hard here too. That is my message. (Ø)

PM Shamir: Thank you for your message. I have no doubt about your determination to carry out your policy. I wish you success. I am sure you will succeed. I will rely on your decisions. We will keep in close contact and work together to achieve our goals and your goals. (Ø)

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The President: Larry Eagleburger will report to me as soon as he returns. I understand arrangements for the meeting have already been made. Thank you. Have a good day. (Ø)

PM Shamir: Thank you. Good bye. (U)

The President: Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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