

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Kohl of Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings
Interpreter

DATE, TIME: January 16, 1991, 10:23 - 10:28 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

Chancellor Kohl initiated the call. (U)

The President: Helmut, how are you? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: George, I simply wanted to call at this moment. I know how difficult it is for you. I wanted to offer a word of friendship and understanding in the present situation. I hope everything will turn out as something good. (U)

The President: It is very thoughtful of you to call. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I also hope all sides will continue to extend their support. (U)

The President: Let me tell you that it looks increasingly like we will have to use the force that was indicated in the last UN resolution. There is no evidence that Saddam Hussein is prepared to do what fundamentally he must do -- get out of Kuwait. There is no evidence of compromise. We have had diplomatic initiative after diplomatic initiative. So I have concluded, barring some last diplomatic initiative, that force will have to be used. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: It is up to Saddam Hussein to decide, and I don't hold out much hope. (U)

The President: I would like to suggest that we contact your Ambassador prior to the actual application of force, so that you will have some advance notice. He can get in touch with you right away. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I agree completely. That is a good suggestion. I am very grateful. I can be reached any time night or day. (U)

The President: Good. It is important that what I have told you be held in close confidence. Otherwise, the lives of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines could be at risk. (U)

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Chancellor Kohl: Yes, of course. I understand. (U)

The President: You are a good friend. I understand the question of your forces. I have understood from the beginning. I appreciate this call from a friend. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you. God bless you. (U)

The President: Keep our kids in your prayers. (U)

-- End of Conversation --