

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Call to the King of Saudi Arabia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Fahd
Interpreter: Shukran Kamal
Notetaker: Sandra CharlesDATE, TIME February 2, 1991; 3:05 - 3:35 p.m.
AND PLACE: Camp DavidThe President: Hello, your Majesty. How are you? (U)King Fahd: How are you? I am glad to speak to you. (U)The President: Well, it's nice to talk to you. I just wanted to call to congratulate you on the outstanding success in retaking Khafji and thank your forces for helping to recover some of the marines who were trapped there. We are really grateful. (U)

Things are still going quite well and are right on schedule. This attempt by Saddam to try to start the ground war early failed miserably. I also placed a call to thank the Amir of Qatar. His forces were involved too. They are performing quite well. (U)

Another point, I know you understood but on the Baker/Bessmertnykh communique, there is no change in our position. I wanted to tell you that personally. We are not interested in a ceasefire or to give him a chance to regroup. There won't be any concessions to Saddam. After what he has done to our POWs, launching SCUDs at your people and those in Israel, and now environmental terrorism, he must pay for that under resolution 674. There can be no compromise, and there is no interest in a ceasefire that will make a concession to him. But I am anxious to know how you think things are going. (U)

King Fahd: First of all, thank you for your call, and I want to congratulate you for the success in retaking Khafji. I also want to thank you, Mr. President, for what the U.S. Marines did and the services rendered to Saudi and Qatari forces. The way we see it, we don't think there are varied armies on the front -- we have one united army. (U)~~SECRET~~

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2009-0676-MR
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The President: Good, that's right. (U)

King Fahd: I heard a statement you made, Mr. President, that there will be no hesitation in the U.S. position, and no cessation of the action until this matter is resolved -- and that means when Kuwait is restored to its preaggression state and Saddam has returned where he is supposed to be. I would like to affirm my belief the army on the front has arranged its operations in a proper manner so that Saddam cannot take any action. Actually, I believe what happened will make this area quiet over the next one hundred years. (S)

The President: I hope so. It is our ambition for the Gulf area too. Your Majesty, what are you hearing inside Iraq? (S)

King Fahd: The news we are receiving from inside Iraq is that the people are unhappy; the army is dissatisfied. But no one talks to Saddam. The only solution if there is dissatisfaction expressed to him is to be killed. This is what was told to us by the Iraqi officers captured with the soldiers. They told us they don't want to be in the fighting, but they told us the troops behind us keep pushing us so we would fight. (S)

I believe that the end of the revolutionary (sic) guard is starting to happen as a result of the bombing. This is an important factor for demoralizing the rest of the army and making them surrender. (S)

The President: I agree with that. (U)

King Fahd: At the same time I also am pleased, Mr. President, that prime targets are being hit by bombs from Jordan to Kuwait borders and destroyed. We know these are the places where missiles are being launched and where binary gases are made. (S)

The President: The air forces are doing a good job -- that's air forces plural. Could I raise one last question? I called Prime Minister Sharif of Pakistan. It was the first time I talked to him. I thanked him for his steadfast support despite tough opposition at home. But we are concerned about statements by General Beg and statements by some of the Afghan Resistance who oppose your and our position on Iraq. Beg's statements that inflame the opposition concern me because we worry about the safety of American citizens in Pakistan. The Prime Minister was quite reassuring about managing the dissent and staying with us. I was just wondering if the situation worries you or if it is under control. (S)

King Fahd: I spoke at length with the Prime Minister when he was here three days ago. We discussed this matter clearly. I asked him that there be no opposition to our position and to the United States. He promised he would take the necessary measures to make sure that happens. He asked me to send an envoy, and he will go tomorrow. We also will extend an invitation to Beg to visit here in Saudi Arabia. (S)

The President: That is all very encouraging. I must say he sounded confident he could weather the criticism and stay with us. (S)

King Fahd: This is what the Prime Minister told me also. He told me he was able to overcome this unexpected problem and stay the course. I have known him a long time, and he is a strong man. I am willing to help him in a variety of ways, and we are. (S)

The President: Thank you, unless there was something else. I wanted to call to congratulate you on the heroism of your troops. I wish you well. (U)

King Fahd: Thank you. God willing, you will be hearing good news about Pakistan next week. (S)

The President: Well, that's good. Call me if you have any problems, but I think things are going well. (S)

King Fahd: Thank you, Mr. President, for this call. It is much appreciated. (U)

The President: Good-bye and my respects. (U)

-- End of Conversation --