

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Call to President Mubarak of Egypt on February 2, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
President Hosni Mubarak  
Notetaker: Sandra Charles, NSC

DATE, TIME February 2, 1991; 2:35 - 2:45 p.m.  
AND PLACE: Camp David

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

President Mubarak: Fine, fine. How are you, George? (U)

The President: I thought I'd call to touch base at the end of the week and compare thoughts. I just spent yesterday going around to several of our military bases visiting with some of the families of our troops in the Gulf. I was very impressed. Morale is very strong here. And support in the country is strong. I was touched and impressed by what I heard from the families. They have no doubt about what their husbands and fathers are doing is right. (C)

I also had a good talk with Esmat Meguid. He and Jim are doing some good work on the IMF agreement. I'm interested in helping on that. From our end, the military effort is going well. We will not let Saddam decide the timing of any ground action. The air campaign will go on as long as necessary. (C)

Another point I wanted to make is to be sure there is no misunderstanding about the Baker/Bessmertnykh statement. There is no change. We have no interest in a ceasefire, concessions or a pause, hoping Saddam will do in the future what he should have done before. (C)

President Mubarak: I saw your tour yesterday on TV. I saw your reception. It was very warm. I saw it on TV here. (U)

The President: How do you see things? (U)

President Mubarak: Things are going well, very well. I am in touch with our forces every day. Everything is going well. (C)

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The President: He made a mistake trying to get us into ground combat early. Instead he got his equipment and personnel captured and killed. We will set the timetable and not be drawn in until we are ready. (C)

President Mubarak: I have sent a message to our people, to General Schwarzkopf that we should not slip into a ground war until we are ready. (C)

The President: When we do I am ready to go all out. It won't take long unlike what the press says. And it will not be costly in life despite what the press says. We will convince Saddam he will not get a stalemate so he can claim victory like he did with Iran. We are going to beat him bad. (S)

President Mubarak: I agree. I have the same conception. (C)

The President: That's good because you know the area. We are on the same wavelength. Apparently, there was some misunderstanding by some countries about the Baker/Bessmertnykh communique. Jim insists there was nothing new in it. I want our coalition partners to know we are not deviating from our agreed path. I don't see how this man can remain alive after the conflict. I don't see why his own people don't kick him out. (S)

President Mubarak: We didn't misunderstand at all. In Saudi Arabia we issued a statement saying the same thing as yours. Besides he won't agree on withdrawal. (C)

The President: You told me before he wouldn't after withdrawing from Iran. (C)

President Mubarak: I think things are going well. (C)

The President: I wish his people would throw him out. That would make it perfect. (S)

President Mubarak: Inshallah, as we say in Arabic. (U)

The President: Well, I thought we should talk once a week to see if there are any problems to see how things are going. One other thing, I am worried about the Maghreb and what to do there if there is anything. There have been more demonstrations in Tunis and Morocco. So I worry, but I don't know what we should do. (S)

President Mubarak: In Tunis things will slow down on their own. (S)

The President: Good, so we'll leave it. I understand there was a meeting of religious leaders in Egypt or Saudi Arabia and they called for a jihad against Saddam. If there was a meeting, there was nothing in the paper on it. (S)

President Mubarak: Yes, it was held in Saudi Arabia. The meetings here and all the conferences are against that. In Parliament there was a tough speech against Saddam. That will be good for public opinion here. (Ø)

The President: Is public opinion in good shape? (Ø)

President Mubarak: Yes. (U)

The President: Good, well I was just checking in to say hello. I appreciate our staying in close touch. I am going to call King Fahd, and I talked with the Amir of Qatar already, remembering your advice to stay in touch. I am glad we are together on this. (Ø)

President Mubarak: If anything arises, I will contact you. How is Barbara? (Ø)

The President: Fine, we are up at Camp David. She's doing well. (U)

President Mubarak: Good-bye. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --