

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, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME: February 15, 1991, 3:31 - 3:39 p.m.
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Hello, Turgut. How are you? I was just calling to discuss the new initiative by Saddam Hussein. We've looked at it closely and frankly he is going backwards. It is unacceptable to us. (Ø)

President Ozal: Yes. When I first heard about it, I felt it was propaganda. (Ø)

The President: Yes, serious propaganda. Everyone has pointed that out. There are old conditions and new conditions. We would have to pay for the reconstruction of Iraq whereas the UN says he should pay for damages. We knocked it down hard. I just wanted to be sure you knew how we felt. (Ø)

President Ozal: I wanted to speak to you earlier today to give you my support. There is a big possibility to end the Vietnam syndrome in the U.S. (Ø)

The President: Yes, I want it to end. We have a ways to go to fulfill our objectives. (Ø)

President Ozal: We must ask him to implement all UN resolutions. (Ø)

The President: The only good thing is that this is the first crack in his armor. He didn't call Kuwait the nineteenth province. But the other conditions are unhelpful. (Ø)

President Ozal: I think you have hit him very hard. Your military commanders say you have destroyed one-third of his army tanks. But I think it is fifty percent or more. You are being too conservative. You are hitting his forces very hard. (Ø)

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The President: We are moving forward on the other plans and I will give you a heads up. The problem in Vietnam is that we would stop the bombing for a ceasefire. We can't have a pause or ceasefire. We will stay the course. (S)

President Ozal: That is agreeable to me. One more point. People were very excited in Baghdad when they heard the announcement this morning. (C)

The President: Exactly. I am convinced, Turgut, you know this better than me, that when Saddam Hussein is out of the picture, the Iraqi people will dance in the streets. (S)

President Ozal: The second point is that you have an opportunity to erase the Vietnam memory and give a big push to the U.S. (S)

The President: I look forward to seeing Alptemocin on February 22. Please tell him to come to see me. (U)

President Ozal: Yes. I believe it is already scheduled. I may come to the U.S. in March. I will speak at Pennsylvania University. (C)

The President: Fantastic. Please come to see me. Let me know when you are coming. Let's get this thing nailed down. (U)

President Ozal: It will be March 23-24. I will be at Pennsylvania, Brown and Duke. (C)

The President: Good. Those are great universities. That is wonderful. I'll look at the schedule and make sure we can meet. Maybe we can have a relaxed dinner at home. (U)

President Ozal: Anytime after March 22, on the 23rd or 24th or after I go to the universities. (C)

The President: Get your Foreign Minister to let me know and we'll work out a program. (U)

Jim Baker spoke to Bessmertnykh. We are okay with the USSR. They've got demonstrations in Azerbaijan. But they agree fully and completely with the UN resolutions. We are not drifting apart. (C)

President Ozal: I will visit the USSR before I come to the U.S. I'll be ready to talk to you then about my trip there. (C)

The President: We'll be in touch. The war is okay. I am unhappy with the loss of life in Baghdad. I can assure you that was a military center. It is terrible there were civilians in there. (C)

Did you get our military briefing? (C)

President Ozal: Yes. (U)

The President: There was one picture of his planes against a 4,000 year-old building. You could clearly see two planes right up against it. (Ø)

President Ozal: But Saddam Hussein is losing. (Ø)

The President: I think so. It was good talking to you. Give me a call if anything comes up. (U)

-- End of Conversation --