

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Mubarak of Egypt on
February 20, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Mubarak
Notetaker: C. David Welch, NSC

DATE, TIME February 20, 1991; 7:14 - 7:21 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

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

President Mubarak: Very well. I received your message. I agree to it. (✓)

The President: Yes. I gather Jim Baker and Abd el-Meguid have talked. I wanted your advice or thoughts. I got your message on being careful. I do not want him to pull victory from the jaws of defeat. We haven't heard any more from the Soviets. We are going forward with the plan you are aware of and a part of. There will be no let up in our campaign. We have no interest in killing Iraqis but the ending must be clear and unequivocal. (✓)

President Mubarak: I am pleased that your message is very firm. (✓)

The President: The French, Brits, and Ozal are in good shape. I talked also to Mulroney from Canada; they are very solid. The coalition is standing all together. There will be no concessions. Fahd and the Amir mentioned reparations in their public statements; we agree that this is an issue. The Soviet proposal is silent on lots of points. To have a ceasefire, then a withdrawal is unacceptable. I will not put our men, and yours, at risk. I am glad that you agree with us. (✓)

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President Mubarak: The Soviets want a ceasefire, but then that will cause complications. (Ø)

The President: Our plans are going forward. If the ground war commences, then I'm optimistic. Casualties will be lower than people expect. How's your public opinion? (Ø)

President Mubarak: Nothing new here -- it's good. (U)

The President: CNN's Peter Arnett -- you know, the guy in Baghdad -- he is guilty these days of spreading their propaganda. (Ø)

President Mubarak: He broadcasts what Iraq wants -- he can't say anything else. (Ø)

The President: Is there anything else from Iraq, from the RCC today? I noticed they celebrated in Iraq on February 15 -- I wonder if the people will move against him. (Ø)

President Mubarak: There are slogans on walls there against Saddam Hussein; they are painting these on the walls. The people are fed up with him. (Ø)

The President: They would probably rejoice if he were pushed aside. (Ø)

President Mubarak: They are very upset with him. (Ø)

The President: No one has seen him in the last several days. (Ø)

President Mubarak: Yes, there are some doubts, maybe he is not even alive. No word from him. (Ø)

The President: Well, maybe we'll be lucky. I hate to think that way about a person. Some think he'll be a new Nasser. (Ø)

President Mubarak: He won't be respected because he failed to take a decision in time to save his people. All this is on the bodies of his people. (Ø)

The President: Well, I'm pleased to talk to you; let's remain together. Call me anytime. (U)

-- End of Conversation --