

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Turgut Ozal
of Turkey: February 23, 1991 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Turgut Ozal
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns

DATE, TIME February 23, 1991, 10:30 - 10:35am
AND PLACE Camp David

The President: Turgut. How are things? (U)

President Ozal: Fine, how are you? (U)

The President: Fine. I am calling with a little heads up. We have imposed a deadline and it has broad support. I wanted you to know about our plan because it doesn't look like he will withdraw. We will then have to undertake action but I don't want to go into the timing over the open line. We have not changed the threat. I wanted you to know we tried hard. (S)

Jim Baker is with me. He had a one hour talk with Bessmertnykh last night. Bessmertnykh pleaded for further UN action. But Jim said we hadn't even fulfilled the original UN resolutions yet, much less take on new actions. (S)

We met with Alptemocin yesterday. I am afraid it was hectic due to the events. I hope you understand. (S)

President Ozal: I am very comfortable. We are waiting. And Turkey supports you. Don't worry about that. The Iraqi army will surrender in a short time. (S)

The President: We don't think it will be long. We'll go forward and will stay in close touch. I wanted you to know we have to go forward. I can't lose credibility and won't have much of a delay. But again, I do not want to give any more detail because of the open line. (S)

President Ozal: The Iraqis are in desperate condition. I noticed the soldiers when I was in Diyarbakir on our border. They are increasing in number every day. (S)

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The President: What he has done with the oil fields is terrible. He is laying waste to Kuwait like a terrorist. I told Gorbachev that we cannot wait while he does that. He is blowing up the oilfields. He is brutalizing the Kuwaiti people. We simply don't have time to wait. (S)

President Ozal: Yes. I think you have no time. God bless the United States and the American people. (S)

The President: I am looking forward to March. I will bring you right up here to Camp David. We'll sleep and than have a good chance to talk. (S)