

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

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10. Memcon	Re: President's Meeting with Ambassador Saud Nasser, Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States (4 pp.)	2/28/91	(b)(1)	C

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### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with Ambassador Saud Nasser, Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
The Vice President  
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff  
Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy for National Security Affairs  
Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary  
Richard N. Haass, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director, Near East and South Asian Affairs  
Sandra Charles, Director, Near East and South Asian Affairs

Ambassador Saud Nasser  
Nawaf bin Saud Nasser, Ambassador's Son

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: February 28, 1991; 3:15 - 3:40 p.m.  
The Oval Office

The President and Ambassador began making public comments for the press corps on the liberation of Kuwait. (U)

The President started the official meeting by reading a cable sent to him from General Boomer, USMC, upon his arrival in Kuwait City. (U)

The Ambassador: It's a good day, thanks to you and your coalition partners. After the anxiety and the suffering of the last seven months. His Highness sends you his best regards. (U)

The President: I would have called him but I am sure he is involved in the emotional aspects of these events. I thought he might want some time to sort out what has happened. Please convey to him my respects. We are proud to have had a significant part in something as historic as this. You should be able to tell him about the mood in our country. How we really identify with the feelings of the Kuwaiti people. The films on T.V. have been so touching. It also looks like we have agreed on the goals for the upcoming military meeting. We will give you a full accounting as soon as we know the details. (S)

The Ambassador: On the number of Kuwaiti detainees, we are taking head counts, and asking people for identification to get a better accounting of who is missing and who is dead. (S)

The President: How can you sort this out with ID cards? I understand the Iraqis may have gotten their hands on some false ones. (S)

The Ambassador: We know who is who. We are a small society. We were able to smuggle out records. You may recall this from the action at the UN. So we are able to identify Kuwaitis because we are a small society. It is indeed a beautiful day. How is Mrs Bush? (S)

The President: She is fine, recovering faster than expected. She feels as emotional about this as I do. She is really happy. (U)

The Ambassador: You did a masterful job. (U)

The President: How is the security situation inside Kuwait? What are you hearing? (U)

The Ambassador: It will be a couple of days until our security people can take control. I spoke with your Ambassador earlier, and he will go in tomorrow. They are clearing the Embassy. Some Kuwaitis have insisted on going back in themselves. (S)

The President: This is a wonderful occasion. Do you know Sadruddin Aga Khan? His wife Katy is a friend of ours. Her sister is married to a Lebanese and she is living with her husband in Kuwait. They and some of their friends hid Americans, and all the jewels, some kind of public collection. They have lived in fear as you can imagine until the American was able to get out. They worried because of every knock on the door that it might be the Iraqis. But then you must know thousands of cases like this. (S)

The Ambassador: My brother and his wife are still there. Some of my cousins have been taken away. Five of them were taken. (S)

The President: Do you have any information on where they are taking them and what they are doing with them? (U)

The Ambassador: The largest number were rounded up in the last two weeks when it looked like the ground operations were being prepared to begin. They may want to use them as a bargaining chip -- we don't know. The last week officers deserted their soldiers and took private cars and defected, leaving their soldiers without any command. Over a thousand cars were leaving bumper-to-bumper. They were the ones responsible for the atrocities and they were trying to escape under cover in private cars. We hope they can be cut off. They should answer for these atrocities, and the treatment of their own soldiers. (S)

The President: They are even turning on Saddam Hussein. What will happen next, we don't know. But it seems we are on track. When will you go back? (C)

The Ambassador: We are trying to invite members of Congress and I will take them next week to see the devastation and the damage. We have sent invitations for a trip for next week. If the logistics work, then we would return by Thursday. But we want to make sure it is secure to go. (C)

The President: If it's not, then we can give a list of names to take. (laughter) But even our critics now support our troops. No one pulled away. (C)

The Ambassador: We hope a good number go. We will spend the day checking out the place and the damage. (U)

The President: I understand there are no hotels operating. (U)

The Ambassador: No, so we will fly into Bahrain. We will drive through Saudi Arabia and pass by the troops there, go to Kuwait and then drive back to Bahrain. We want them to see why you had to take this policy. (U)

Dr. Haass: It also might be a good idea to invite in other international teams, like the ICRC and the Arab League to document some of the atrocities and damage. (C)

The Ambassador: The teams are already there. And these organizations are interviewing people who are coming out. (U)

The President: (b)(1)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(b)(1)

The Ambassador: (b)(1)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(b)(1) You see what they are saying in the media about the war. (C)

The President: It is like they are an arm of Saddam's media. Is it government controlled? (C)

The Ambassador: They do to some extent. (b)(1)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(b)(1)

(b) (1)

The Ambassador: We would like to know what Saddam Hussein did with the wealth of Kuwait. There were reports of planes going from Baghdad to Sann with metal boxes on board, maybe carrying the spoils of Kuwait. (C)

The President: This should be looked into on the reparations issue. We don't intend to give up on reparations in the UN, or what they call compensation. (C)

The Ambassador: The biggest presents went to Amman. They gave them cars and apartments to get writers and thinkers to support them. This was planned. So he was able to influence their articles and the media. (C)

The President: I saw the Wall Street Journal article on this.  
(U)

The Ambassador: We have had people looking into this for months. The article had more information on it, including connections to Jordan and Yemen. (U)

The President: When will it be safe for his Highness to go back?  
(C)

The Ambassador: The Crown Prince, the Prime Minister, will go back on Sunday. He will assess the security situation and safety, and then decide. (C)

-- End of Conversation --