

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Turgut Ozal, President of Turkey
on April 2, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, President
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns

DATE, TIME April 2, 1991, 11:49 - 11:56 a.m.
AND PLACE Islamorada Island, Florida

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

President Ozal: Fine. I just came back from the U.S. (U)

The President: Good. (U)

President Ozal: Then I saw a very difficult situation at the border with Iraq. There are now 250,000 people, mainly children and women fleeing from northern Iraq. Eighty to ninety percent of them have accumulated on our border. We believe up to 600,000 more people may also flee. The Iraqis are pushing them, using many kinds of weapons. The people are trying to come to Turkey away from the violence. I had a National Security Council meeting today and we decided to appeal to the UN for a UN presence in northern Iraq to stop the killing. We want the five permanent representatives of the UN Security Council to know of our analysis. We have called in the Iraqi Ambassador and asked them to stop the fighting. (S)

The President: Are they mostly Kurds? (S)

President Ozal: Yes. (U)

The President: I see. What has the UN said? (S)

President Ozal: We are applying tonight and will give the same information to your Ambassador. (S)

The President: This is a terrible damn thing. (S)

President Ozal: It is a tragedy, George. (U)

The President: What should the U.S. do? (S)

President Ozal: You must give the Iraqis high pressure. (S)

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The President: I agree. We are reluctant to shoot at helicopters--we have no mandate for that. We are still working on a UN cease-fire resolution. We have been disinclined to take military action. (S)

President Ozal: I defended your stance with my people. (S)

The President: That's right. Saudi Arabia and others agree. But I don't like the problem on your border. (S)

President Ozal: In any case, we need to tell the Iraqis to stay away from the border. I need to find a way to cope with the refugees. (S)

The President: We'll wait to hear from our Ambassador. I welcome your thoughts on what the U.S. should do. (S)

President Ozal: Put pressure on Iraq. Give some kind of indication of your seriousness. (S)

The President: Let us think about it. I will wait to hear from our Ambassador tonight. (S)

President Ozal: There are children and women--it is worse than the 1988 massacre. (S)

The President: Well, they must get rid of Saddam Hussein. By the way, how is your health? What did DeBaKey say in Houston? (S)

President Ozal: There is no problem. I am overweight, but I knew that. But my heart is okay. Unfortunately, my assistant, Guner, will have bypass. His heart is blocked up--75% closed. (S)

The President: He just took the test? (S)

President Ozal: Yes. So I left him there and today he will have the operation. (S)

The President: I hope he feels okay. (U)

President Ozal: Thank you, George. If there is any additional problem, I will let you know. (S)

The President: We are on a boat right now. (U)

President Ozal: I wish you good fishing. Good luck. (U)

-- End of Conversation --