

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Ozal of Turkey (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, President
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME April 20, 1991, 9:42 - 9:49 a.m.
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: Turgut! How are you? (U)

President Ozal: Fine, thank you, George. (U)

The President: I'm afraid I'm bothering you, but I wanted to call and see how things are going. After our last telephone conversation we moved very quickly. (U)

President Ozal: I saw that. I thanked you on television for what you have done. (U)

The President: We have got to keep this operation temporary. We have no interest in dismembering Iraq or getting involved in a civil war. We need a UN umbrella of some kind. As Abramowitz told you, we are encouraging other countries to contribute contingents to the effort. We want to internationalize it. It is probably best that the Turkish military not go in; I think you feel the same way. (Ø)

President Ozal: The problem is this: on the Iranian side, Iraq has an agreement with the UN, but I am not sure those people will go back without security of some kind. (Ø)

The President: I don't want those lives sacrificed, but I don't want the U.S. to become bogged down in a civil war in Iraq. (Ø)

President Ozal: I don't think that will happen. If we stay there more months, probably Saddam Hussein will leave. (Ø)

The President: I hope so. We have got to get him out. He cannot remain. (Ø)

President Ozal: We should keep the embargo on. (Ø)

The President: That may do it. I have been wary about a war crimes tribunal, because people would then want to know how we can get him. We don't want to go into Baghdad to get him. (S)

President Ozal: Your proposal is good -- to get him out of Iraq in return for not bringing him to trial. (S)

The President: People say that position has no moral principle. My principle is that any way to get him out is to the good. (S)

Presidents Ozal: I am sure he will go if we push him in different ways. (S)

The President: Thank you. You have been helpful in various ways. (S)

President Ozal: Yes. Genscher was here. Up to now help to Turkey has been substantial. We have already given more than ten thousand tons. Everything will go all right. The difficulty is the terrain, but we are getting them to the flat places. They will go some miles beyond the northern camps, I think. (S)

The President: I don't have the exact details. Cheney and Powell are coming up to brief me soon. Let us know on Rafsanjani. We want the hostages out. We've offered to help in Iran, but they haven't wanted our help. (S)

President Ozal: They are concerned about the frozen assets. (S)

The President: True. We are working on that, but our main problem is with the hostages. (S)

I know you are busy, but I wanted to touch base. I wanted to be sure that what we are doing meets with your approval. We did so because of what you said about the conditions there. (S)

President Ozal: I am very thankful for what you have done. We will do everything we can, except military. (S)

The President: You have been wonderful on this. (S)

-- End of Conversation --