

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Telephone Call from Prime Minister Shamir of Israel (P)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Shamir
Notetaker: Edmund Hull, NSC

DATE, TIME May 24, 1991; 11:04 - 11:10 a.m.
AND PLACE: Aboard Air Force One

The President: Hello sir. How are you? (U)

The Prime Minister: Fine. How are you? (U)

The President: I am on an airplane, flying somewhere to give a speech, and then I am going to have a few days of rest. (U)

The Prime Minister: I just want you to know that three airplanes have arrived with about 1,000 people. The operation is going well and should continue tonight and tomorrow. Thank you for your help. We are very grateful for all you did and for the success of the operation. (P)

The President: From the first exodus flight from Sudan, I have been emotionally involved. My Jewish friends point out how important it is to save a single life, and this operation is saving many more. Congratulations to Israel, Ethiopia, Rudy Boschwitz and our little team. (P)

The Prime Minister: Thank you, thank you, Mr. President and thanks as well to Rudy, the State Department, and your ambassador in Ethiopia. Tomorrow night we will have all of the refugees here. It was a wonderful job. We are very happy. (P)

The President: Wonderful. I am delighted to talk to you. Let me just add a few words about the peace process. I am convinced we have a real opportunity to do what you want and that it will lead to direct negotiations. We are not letting up. We are trying our best to be a catalyst and hope we will succeed. (P)

The Prime Minister: Thank you for your encouragement. I hope it will go forward with your help and guidance. We appreciate Jim Baker's efforts. I am convinced we will make it. (P)

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The President: Great. It is very kind of you to call. I want you to know this has both my official and personal involvement. (P)

The Prime Minister: Thank you. I know you are personally involved in the rescue and the peace process. I wish you full success. (P)

The President: Our relations with the Soviet Union are better than what you read in the newspaper, and we are continuing our efforts there on emigration. (Z)

The Prime Minister: Thank you. People are coming day and night. We know you are working for us. It is also in the interests of the United States. (Q)

The President: I know it is both in our humanitarian and national security interests. Thank you for the phone call. (Q)

Goodbyes.

-- End of Conversation --