

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Giulio Andreotti, President of Italy  
on June 3, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Giulio Andreotti, President  
Interpreter: Sim Smiley  
Notetaker: Tony Wayne

DATE, TIME June 3, 1991, 2:58 p.m. - 3:13 p.m.  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: How are you, my friend? (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Very well, thank you, Mr. President.  
(U)

The President: Did I find you still in Italy? (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: No, we're in the United Arab  
Emirates, in Abu Dhabi. (U)

The President: Oh, what time is it? Did I wake you up? (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: No, don't worry about it. It's about  
11 p.m. (U)

The President: I wanted to talk to you about your visit to Syria  
and where we are in the Middle East, if you have a minute. (Ø)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, thank you very much. Because  
tomorrow morning I'm going to Kuwait and then in the afternoon,  
I'm going to Syria. (Ø)

The President: Well, first, pay my respects to the Emir of  
Kuwait. (Ø)

Prime Minister Andreotti: I will be very happy to do so. (U)

The President: Well, first of all thank you very much for your  
letter. And secondly, let me, if I could, make a few points and  
then I'll be glad to hear from you on the Middle East. We still  
have a problem on the question of the UN role and whether or not  
the conference can reconvene. These are two stumbling blocks.  
And Asad in particular has been absolutely rigid on these two  
questions even though these are only questions of form rather  
than substance. And, of course, as you know, this obstinance on

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this question makes it very difficult for Israel, whom we're also encouraging to make concessions, to go along. (S)

Baker was in Lisbon and he gave the Syrian Foreign Minister a letter from me to Asad. It outlines what we've done to meet the Syrian concerns and why Syria ought to be willing to commit to a credible peace process. It also points out that Asad should not block the process; that Syria can only lose if it seeks to block a process that can provide real hope for peace in the process. And all I was going to ask you is that when you see Asad, that you make the point that he'll never, never have a better opportunity to be part of a process that can actually produce for the Syrians and the Palestinians. And he ought not to miss the boat in this opportunity. And if you agree that he's been given every chance to be a part of the process, I wish you would let him know that all of us in the West are together on this and are not prepared to let him and him alone define the terms that make it possible to go ahead. For the U.S., anyway, we're determined to press ahead whether he chooses to be a part of the process or not. Bessmertnykh is talking to him along these same lines and so is Mubarak. (S)

So this was the point. I hesitate to call you so late but your's is a very important visit, and if you can persuade him to come to the table, that will be an enormous step forward. And Giulio, you should know that before he went to Syria, King Hussain told me, "I will be at the table." And he goes to Syria and returns to Jordan and he's very vague. He goes back on that commitment. And Asad obviously talked him out of it or talked him into being much more reluctant, and that's bad, too. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: I absolutely agree that we must make all efforts possible to convince Asad. And on the question of the two points that you brought up earlier, this is the way I see the question. But on the first question, I don't think it's logical to exclude the UN. However, I don't think that we can give Israel a pretext not to do what it should be doing, to negotiate. (S)

The President: I agree and actually, the UN has a role in our proposal. But it's not as much as Asad has wanted so far. You know we're starting from the Israelis saying "no UN role at all" and Asad saying "the UN should chair the conference". So we're trying to find some compromises here. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: I will certainly work in that direction and I'm not sure I'll be successful, but I will make my best efforts. (S)

The President: That's wonderful. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: On the second issue of the conference, even if the conference doesn't take place when we think it should, some day it may go well and then we can take those steps we think are necessary. (S)

The President: That would be a good way to approach it. I think he'll listen to you. (C)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, I hope so and tomorrow evening I will meet him after stopping for a few hours in Kuwait. (C)

The President: Wonderful. Your letter also said you were going to Libya. (C)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, I'm going to spend about 2 hours in Tripoli before returning to Italy because Qadhafi insisted that I stop there. And he's been behaving well lately. I decided to talk to him, and Mubarak suggested I talk to him. (S)

The President: Mubarak is very high on that issue, and he thinks I'm dragging my feet. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, he told me that he talked to you, and the day after tomorrow I will speak to him and see what commitment he can make. (S)

The President: Good, but please bear in mind that there is substantial evidence that he continues to support terrorism, albeit in a lower profile. And we continue to believe he is producing chemical weapons. I'm not misleading you. Our evidence is pretty convincing here. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Well, certainly we must examine more carefully the issue of giving credit to Qadhafi, which I don't think we should do right now. But at the same time we should encourage him to continue down the peaceful road he has embarked upon lately. (S)

The President: The more peaceful the road, the better. But I plan to keep my eyes open because he says one thing on chemical but does something else. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, Italy will also be very careful because we are so much closer to him and we will be at risk if he uses chemical weapons. (S)

The President: Yes, very much so. Have a wonderful trip and I appreciate your taking this call. (C)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Thank you very much and good luck, Mr. President. (U)

The President: Now get a little sleep, my friend. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Good bye. (U)

The President: Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --