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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Turgut Ozal, President of Turkey
on June 3, 1991

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

DATE, TIME: June 4, 1991, 3:31 p.m. - 3:42 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

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

President Ozal: Fine, thank you. How are you? (U)

The President: I'm OK. In fact, my health is really good. (U)

President Ozal: I want to make your visit quite a good visit.
(U)

The President: Well, listen. I'm looking forward to it. (U)

President Ozal: One information. An important one. You know
that President Rafsanjani visited Turkey. (S)

The President: How did it go? Oh, Rafsanjani. I thought you
were talking about Aziz coming. (S)

President Ozal: I'll tell you about that later. With
Rafsanjani, I talked about the hostages in Lebanon. (S)

The President: Oh, you did? (U)

President Ozal: Yes. I asked him without any condition to let
two of them go as a sign. And maybe one of them will be this
Terry Anderson. We are not very sure yet. (S)

The President: I missed what you said. (U)

President Ozal: Terry Anderson. I'm not very sure. The answer
is that they will let two go without any conditions in 10 days.
(S)

The President: You believe him? (S)

President Ozal: Yes. That's how the news came to me. I believe
him. But they would like to see this gesture reciprocated by
Israel. (S)

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The President: What do they have in mind? (U)

President Ozal: I think there are some Shi'ia prisoners. The most important one is Sheikh Obeid. (S)

The President: Well, we know of that and I have the feeling that there's talking going on in that part of the world regarding the release of Obeid over there. But it is not with us. (S)

President Ozal: One additional. If the gesture is made by the Israelis, this could be done not through you, but with Lebanon. At the border of Lebanon. (S)

The President: Yes. (U)

President Ozal: They have relations there. Then Rafsanjani wants to finish all this business and try to let all the hostages free. (S)

The President: I see. What will that take? (U)

President Ozal: A gesture by Israel. After the other gesture, they want to see. They have some effect on the people in Lebanon, but those people are also very interested in their people in Israel. Hello? (S)

The President: Yes, I hear you with great interest -- everything you said. (U)

President Ozal: I think this is the most important one. I think this is the real one because his visit in Turkey was a very good one. We have very good relations. (S)

The President: Well, we've heard good things about the man but we have this historic enmity about the assets. (S)

President Ozal: He wants to finish it. Maybe they would like to establish relations with you. I feel it. (S)

The President: But you think he can finish it by the first gesture and then if he gets a reciprocal gesture, he'll do the rest. (S)

President Ozal: Yes, in 10 days. (S)

The President: Well I hope you are right. The fact you talked to him about this -- I'm so very grateful to you. (S)

President Ozal: Yes, I'm working for you. The second one is about your visit to Turkey. I think you are coming on the 19th from Greece to Ankara and leaving the morning of the 21st. This is a problem they told me. I would like to see a change in the program a little bit because the city of Istanbul is the most important city in Turkey. If you do not visit it, you have not seen Turkey. What I suggest is that you come on the 19th to

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Ankara as planned and the 20th about noon we will together leave for Istanbul. I would like to make you rest and see this beautiful scenery of Istanbul. A small excursion. I will come with you. (S)

The President: How nice. (U)

President Ozal: We will go to Istanbul the next day - 20th - and when we arrive in Istanbul, take a boat from the airport. We will go to a hotel and then to the Bosphorus where you will see a nice view of Istanbul. (S)

The President: Wouldn't that be wonderful? (U)

President Ozal: It would be good for Mrs. Bush, also. (U)

The President: She would love it. (U)

President Ozal: You are going to go in the morning but it requires 6 hours more. (U)

The President: Let me talk to the schedulers. I don't mind flying all night. (S)

President Ozal: I'm going to ask...

The President: I'll take this up right now with General Scowcroft and the schedulers and tell them I'd like to do it. The only problem I've got is the time on the other end, but I would love to do that. (S)

President Ozal: If you go for example at 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon, you will arrive at 7:00 p.m. in the evening in Washington direct. (U)

The President: As opposed to getting here at 1:00 p.m. we get here at 7:00 p.m.? (U)

President Ozal: Yes, 6 hours difference. (U)

The President: Let us see what we can do. You've been so good to us and I will try, but I don't know the schedule on the other end. We'll get to work on it right away. (U)

President Ozal: And, George, it is also important for me. (S)

The President: That matters to me. (U)

President Ozal: Thank you. (U)

The President: Has Aziz been there yet? (S)

President Ozal: I am not very sure but he is supposed to come. We told the news the 11th and 12th of this month. Then what comes out of it, I'll tell you. I'll tell him that there will be no relations with the west as long as Saddam is in power. (S)

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The President: Hold the line on that. But Saddam, the things he's doing now. You know there's some evidence that he's diverting the flour into his own hometown and away from humanitarian needs. The man has not changed. He is still a bad person. (S)

President Ozal: He is not a nice person. After the humiliating defeat, he should not stay in power. He should kill himself as a good Arab. (S)

The President: Good luck and we are very, very pleased that Colin Powell came back. He was grateful to you for coming to supper. And pleased that we're getting these people almost entirely out of Turkey. (S)

President Ozal: Also your army corps of engineers is coming. Which will go to Arab countries and maybe to Israel. If there is a peace, we will give them water through the Peace Pipeline. (S)

The President: That would give us leverage. Let's see what we can do. It's a big project and I'm glad the corps are coming. Those are the people that have a lot to say. Thank you for the two points. I'm glad to get the first one and we'll try to be helpful on the second one. (S)

President Ozal: Thank you. (U)

The President: Thank you. Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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