

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Mubarak of Egypt on  
June 12, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: President Bush  
President Mubarak  
Notetaker: Edmund Hull, NSC

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 12, 1991; 2:35 - 2:41 p.m. EST  
The Oval Office

The President: Hello, Hosni, how are you? (U)

President Mubarak: Hello, Happy Birthday, George. (U)

The President: It has been happy so far, but I don't like getting older. Where are you? (U)

President Mubarak: In Egypt. Suzie and the boys also wish you well and a happy birthday. (U)

The President: Thank you. What's happening? I know you have been working with the Syrians. (S)

President Mubarak: Yes, I met Assad several days ago and sent my Foreign Minister to Damascus. They have worked out good options. The Foreign Minister has briefed Jim Baker. (S)

The President: Yes, Jim Baker is encouraged. We are now waiting for the exact wording from the Syrians. (S)

President Mubarak: They have agreed to Baker's points. (S)

The President: Are you optimistic? (S)

President Mubarak: Yes, I am after four hours of talks with Assad. (S)

The President: That is encouraging. I hope there are no conditions. (S)

The President: No. None at all. After you receive the Syrian response, let me know if anything is needed. (S)

The President: We haven't got it yet, but we are grateful to Amr for his efforts and his call to Baker. (S)

President Mubarak: You should get the Syrian response within two days. (S)

The President: It would be useful if you could now weigh in with King Hussein to encourage him to start working with West Bankers on a joint delegation. We are talking to the King and to Feisal Husseini in this regard. (S)

President Mubarak: I was talking with the King five minutes ago. (S)

The President: How is he feeling? (U)

President Mubarak: Much better. (U)

The President: Good. (U)

President Mubarak: I spoke with him about the delegation. We are also urging the Palestinians. We are trying hard and hope everyone may accept. (S)

The President: Shamir's response does not constitute a "no." He has outlined his problems with the UN and reconvening, but hasn't stated a bottom line. The door is still open. With a positive Syrian response and joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation formed, it would be very, very difficult for him not to engage. We are not giving up. (S)

President Mubarak: We are working with the Syrians, Palestinians and Jordanian and hope to create common ground. (S)

The President: I hope you are able to stay close to the framework. You are doing a great job. We appreciate your efforts. (S)

President Mubarak: Thanks. Love to all. (U)

The President: Just been handed your telegram. I am very pleased with what it says. Oh, one more thing. Ambassador Wisner has briefed you on the mounting Congressional concern about the case of the Egyptian Christians. I know it is difficult for you. You have your internal legal processes. Unfortunately, it has gotten considerable attention here. We need to get this behind us. Pressure is building in the House and Senate. Anything you can do would be appreciated. I know you must respect Egyptian law, but there is a political dimension. (S)

President Mubarak: I am trying to find out what I can do. If I do it, it will cause a hell of problem with the extremists. We need to do it legally. That is much better. (S)

The President: You are doing great, but it is a bubbling problem. We don't want Congress to step on Egypt. (S)

President Mubarak: I have similar cases with other countries, and I do not want to set a precedent which will cause me a hell of a problem with the extremists. That is my fear. (S)

The President: I do not know all the details, and they did violate the law, but see what you can do. (S)

President Mubarak: I will try hard. If I can, I will never hesitate. (S)

The President: I appreciate the phone call. Thanks and good-bye. (U)

President Mubarak: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --