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THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt  
on July 10, 1991 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Secretary Baker  
President Mubarak  
Notetaker: Bruce Riedel

DATE, TIME July 10, 1991; 9:35 - 9:51 EDT  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: Hello Hosni. (U)

President Mubarak: Hello George. How are you? (U)

The President: I'm fine. I'm with Jim Baker and Brent Scowcroft and I'd like to touch base with you on where we stand on several issues of great importance to both of us. (U)

President Mubarak: Fine. (U)

The President: First is the situation in northern Iraq. Coalition troops will be leaving shortly and we intend to make a statement soon making public what we have told the Iraqis privately. We will retain the capability to intervene and punish Iraq if Saddam starts brutalizing the Kurds again. I want our troops out of Iraq. They've done a great job as have all the coalition forces, but we cannot stay forever. If Saddam hurts the Kurds again, however, he will pay a price. (S)

The second point concerns Iraq's non-compliance with UNSC Resolution 687. Time will only make it harder to find and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capability. We've talked to King Fahd about this and he shares our worry, especially about Iraq's nuclear capability. Iraq's latest report to the UN is a hopeful sign but not enough. (S)

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So this is what we propose to do. We will demand that Iraq go along with inspections at any time and at any place we require. If it fails to comply we will hit the site from the air after providing a brief notification to clear the area of people. We're talking about a grave nuclear threat. We'll be demanding inspection and if they refuse we'll hit them. I think we won't have to use force, but I can't sit here with the UN resolution unfulfilled. Our military says most of the sites are in the Baghdad area, so flying missions out of Saudi Arabia would be optimal. I would like to have broad coalition support for what is needed. Our whole victory in the Gulf will be diminished if this villainous man doesn't comply. (S)

President Mubarak: I agree he is a villain. If he is not removed he will use his weapons. (S)

The President: Please think about our proposal. I don't want another war and hope we don't need force. I'll be talking to Ozal on this too. We will punish Iraq selectively and we will not be reckless. (S)

President Mubarak: I agree with you 100%. I'll send Saddam another message telling him if he doesn't comply he will again face fate. (S)

The President: That's okay. Send it soon. I've spoken to Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney on this and he is also sending a message via the Iraqi ambassador warning Iraq of the risks of non-compliance. I know you have channels of your own. (S)

President Mubarak: I'll do it immediately. (S)

The President: You are the first in the area to hear of this. I want Egypt on board if it comes to force. I don't mean that we are going to attack soon, of course. (S)

President Mubarak: I'm with you 100% on this issue. (S)

The President: Let me touch on the peace process while I have you. It has been a month since I wrote President Assad. Time is working against us. I know how hard you have tried to get Syria on board and I'm grateful. Can we get the Arabs or the Arab League to make a statement saying they will give up the boycott of Israel if Israel stopped that damned settlement activity? Will you consider this and talk to the other Arabs? We've sounded out the Saudis and I think they are receptive. Can you raise it also? We need more to go to Shamir with. Once Syria is on board I'm ready to go public or do whatever is necessary with Israel. (S)

President Mubarak: I am looking forward to my Foreign Minister's meeting with Jim Baker in Greece. I'll speak to Saudis on it and my Foreign Minister will speak to Baker. We understand Assad will answer you today. I've told Der Speigal the answer will come today. (S)

The President: Good. I'm glad we agree. (S)

President Mubarak: I'd like to have Jim visit Cairo on his trip even if only for a few hours. (S)

The President: Will you give him a meal? I'll put him on the phone. (S)

Secretary Baker: How are you Mr. President? (U)

President Mubarak: It's been a long time since you visited. You'll hear from Assad soon. (S)

Secretary Baker: I hope so and I hope it is a positive answer. Let me reiterate the import of the President's proposal on the boycott. This could shake loose the process. (S)

President Mubarak: Okay, I'll talk to my Foreign Minister. (S)

Secretary Baker: As the President said we think the Saudis are receptive. (S)

President Mubarak: I'll talk to Fahd. Can you visit us? (S)

Secretary Baker: I've got to go to Malaysia on this visit for the ASEAN meeting. I'll see Foreign Minister Moussa in Athens. If I can visit I will. Let's get some movement on the boycott going. (S)

Goodbyes.

-- End of Conversation --