

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Turgut Ozal of Turkey

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, President
Notetaker: Barry Lowenkron, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME August 19, 1991, 3:03 - 3:11 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2009-0635-MR
ZC 11/10/10

The President: Hello? (U)

President Ozal: Hello, George, how are you? (U)

The President: Turgut, I'm very concerned and am back in Washington now. (U)

President Ozal: Yes, I heard the news and I thought to myself, it's just like a year ago. (U)

The President: Yes, it's another crisis, isn't it? (U)

President Ozal: A very big crisis. More important than the Gulf crisis. (U)

The President: Well, it is. What is your thinking about it? (U)

President Ozal: I think we have to put pressure on the leaders who seized power. Their behavior at their press conference shows that they are out of step with public opinion in their country. (U)

The President: Well, I agree with you. We have to make very clear to them that this is not acceptable. At the same time, we have to be careful that we don't escalate military pressure. (U)

President Ozal: That is a good point. (U)

The President: Yes, exactly. We must emphasize the political side. We will support reforms and Yeltsin's call to restore Gorbachev. Yeltsin is saying that Gorbachev must be brought back. Unfortunately, this is a pretty tough crowd. Pugo and Kryuchkov are pretty tough people. I don't think we ought to look like we are vacillating in the face of them but we shouldn't be reckless either. (U)

President Ozal: I think it is important to put more pressure on

their people. If they resist, increase the pressure. (S)

The President: Do you think there is going to be a lot of resistance among the people now? (S)

President Ozal: I'm not very sure. I saw on CNN that some of the people had climbed on to the tanks. Strikes are being planned. It will not be as easy for the new leaders as they think. (S)

The President: Well I think we're looking at this matter the same way. I think we need to step up our condemnation of what went on. I will put out a statement in a couple of hours that further defines our position. (S)

President Ozal: Good. We must keep up the pressure. (S)

The President: Well, we'll see what happens, but that's what we're going to do. It affects so many other things. It affects the Middle East, Iraq and so many other decisions. (S)

President Ozal: I don't think the new leadership is so strong. They won't be able to correct their economic problems. (S)

The President: That's right. They think they are going to correct housing and the economy in general. But they can't do that. They are going to fail. (S)

President Ozal: They will fail. They cannot turn the clock back. If they try, it could be very bloody. (S)

The President: I think that would be terrible. (S)

President Ozal: What are the latest developments in the Soviet Union? (S)

The President: We have no information at all on Gorbachev or anything of that nature and no information that is not public. This was a big surprise to us like it was to everyone else. (S)

President Ozal: Like the Gulf crisis. (S)

The President: Yes, it is. I noticed our man Saddam came in and supported the coup publicly. (S)

President Ozal: He supported the coup? (S)

The President: Yes. (U)

President Ozal: I think Saddam is foolish to support the coup. (S)

The President: OK. Well, we'll keep trying to do our best. If you get any suggestions, please call me like we did last year on the Gulf crisis. (S)

President Ozal: Thank you for the call. I hope that everything will work out as it did in the Gulf crisis. (S)

The President: I hope so, too, and hope it gets resolved and the reform process gets back on track. (S)

President Ozal: We have to help them. (S)

The President: I don't know what more we can do. (S)

President Ozal: I spoke to the Kurdish opposition to Saddam. (S)

The President: What do you think we ought to be doing? (S)

President Ozal: I think we should help. (S)

The President: Well, certainly. But, I don't know what help means. I want to see continued resistance to Saddam Hussein. (S)

President Ozal: We sent some foodstuffs. I think they're looking for financial help and additional foodstuff. These are the main items. (S)

The President: I see. Well, I will see what we are doing on that. I will raise that question today. I've just gotten back. We should help those who are really hurting. (S)

President Ozal: In my opinion there is a lot of anti-Saddam resistance in the North.

The President: You have a good point there. We'll be talking about that this afternoon and I'll find out what we are doing and what we can do. It was nice talking to you. (S)

President Ozal: Goodbye.

-- End of Conversation --