

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation with President Abdou Diouf of Senegal

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

President Abdou Diouf

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 10, 1991, 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
The Oval Office

The President: I just have a few points. I want to thank you for Desert Storm. I have a few observations on the Soviet developments. Also I have good news on debt relief -- PL-480. I am still concerned about Qadhafi. (C)

President Diouf: I appreciate the honor of this visit. I admire the way you take on and fulfill respect as leader of the world. I am proud of what we did in Desert Storm. (C)

The President: That was historic. I regret we still have Saddam Hussein, but I believe we did the right thing. (C)

President Diouf: We had great success. I didn't think it would wind up so quickly. It was remarkable. I am in the process of organized the Islamic Conference, December 11-14. I will try to forge some unity. This is a plenary meeting. Kuwait said Arafat wanted to go there to improve relations with Kuwait. Kuwait asked me to do nothing. We should not be duped, and we should not reach out for reconciliation, especially with the PLO. (C)

The President: Saddam Hussein is trying to work his way back in under the guise of Arab unity. He hasn't learned a thing. (C)

President Diouf: He is arrogant. We should keep the pressure on. A new leadership would try to establish some ties. (C)

The President: If you could send word that if Saddam Hussein left, the U.S. would give Iraq every fair chance to restore its credibility. (C)

President Diouf: No one could be worse then Saddam Hussein. (C)

The President: Take Paraguay. He turned out not to be so bad. (C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

2

President Diouf: What are your feelings on Iran? Given its position on the Gulf War, do you think they are reliable over the long run? (C)

The President: You may be a better judge. Our big problems are hostages. It looks like Rafsanjani is trying. I am pleased you have better relations. They are a bit reluctant to have open contacts with us. It is an internal problem for them. (C)

President Diouf: Congratulations on your energetic response to the Soviet coup. You gave us all room to do what is right. We are fearful about disintegration of the Soviet Union and control of nuclear weapons especially. What you think? (C)

The President: I think the nuclear issue will be okay but, I can't be sure the republics issue will remain peaceful. We don't know enough to make confident predications. I don't even know where all these republics are. I like Gorbachev and Yeltsin cooperating. I will get pressures to eliminate my armed forces. Gorbachev is a good man, and he has had a hell of a time. I give him great credit. (C)

Shall we go inside? (U)

President Diouf: The PL-480 relief is very good news. It is very welcome. Just a word about Senegal politics. I have brought the opposition leader into the government, Mr. Wade. He and his party agreed to our sending troops to Desert Storm. His cooperation helps stability. It is not a move to a one-party state. (C)

We have vigorous party system. And I want to make it clear that I am not moving backward. (U)

The President: No. No one has made such an accusation. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~