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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with the Amir of Kuwait (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Vice President  
James A. Baker, Secretary of State  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
John Sununu, Chief of Staff  
Edward Djerejian, Assistant Secretary of  
States, Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs  
Richard Haass, Senior Director for Near East  
and South Asian Affairs, NSC

The Amir of Kuwait  
Sheikh Saud Nasir Al-Sabah, Ambassador to the  
United States  
Mohammad Sulaiman Sayed Ali, Senior Advisor  
AbdulRahman Salem Al-Ateeqi, Senior Advisor

DATE, TIME October 1, 1991, 11:15-11:30 a.m. EST  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President and the Amir of Kuwait met in the Oval Office at 11:15 a.m. (U)

President: I want to apologize at the outset as I will have to leave to give a speech to American school children. If there are any specific issues we don't have time to cover, I suggest that you and the Secretary of State continue to discuss them. (U)

Amir of Kuwait: We understand about your scheduling problems. (U)

President: I am glad to see that you are making real progress. We follow what is going on carefully. (U)

Amir of Kuwait: Following the destruction of our country, we have taken many measures and are on the right path. (U)

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2000-0429F  
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President: If we can just contain your neighbor we will be better off. We have not let up one bit in our determination to see him fulfill the letter and spirit of every UN resolution. The man is crazy in my view. I don't know what you think. Is there any opposition group inside that could move him out? (S)

Amir of Kuwait : There are lots of opposition groups but they do not have a strong presence on the inside. (C)

President: I just want to say that I am pleased you are here and I would like to hear any points you might want to raise. (U)

Amir of Kuwait: I'd like to thank you Mr. President for this opportunity to meet. I know your schedule is tight. But there is one issue I would like to raise. It is regarding your forces in Kuwait, currently due to stay until the end of the year. Would it be possible to keep them there through February so that we can settle our border issue? My second point regards the agreement we have recently signed. I am expressing the view of more than ninety percent of the Kuwaiti people who support this agreement. We very much hope that during the implementation of this agreement our relations will continue to be strong and firm. (S)

President: I fully support this too. I am pleased that we were able to work this out a few weeks ago. How are you doing in your talks with Egypt on a residual security presence? (C)

Amir of Kuwait: I visited Egypt and Syria before coming here. They are both ready to send any amount of troops at my request. When I go back to Kuwait we will be able to work this out. (S)

President: Good. As for your request about our forces, I will talk to the Defense Department and get you a prompt answer. I don't want to leave you in the lurch. (S)

Amir of Kuwait: Once again Mr. President, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to invite you to visit Kuwait. (U)

President: I'd love to. But you've got to get these guys here to say yes. In the meantime, let me thank you for your thoughtful present. (U)

I know you are distressed over the criticism of the internal situation in your country. We would simply encourage as much forward motion as possible. I am delighted to see you but I feel

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bad over the time constraint. We have to go outside now for our joint appearance. Afterwards, there will be time for you to talk with the Secretary if you have any problems. We do not. (C)

Amir of Kuwait: From my point of view there are no other problems. (U)

President: How is the situation coming with the fires? Is it true that they will all be out by the end of the year? (U)

Amir of Kuwait: The situation is much better. We hope so. (U)

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