

Oct. 30, 1991

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation of Meeting between Foreign Minister Mousa of Egypt and President Bush (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Richard N. Haass, Senior Director for Near East and South Asian Affairs

Amr Mousa, Egyptian Foreign Minister
Reda Shitata, Director for International Organizations
Nabil Fahmy, Special Assistant to the Foreign Minister
Ahmed Abu Gheit, Executive Assistant to Foreign Minister

The President and Foreign Minister Mousa met at the U.S. Ambassador's residence at 8:08.

The President: We are trying to convince all parties not to insist on preconditions. We'd like to stay in close touch with you. I wanted to say thank you. (C)

Foreign Minister Mousa: It is for us to say thank you to you and Secretary Baker. We want to continue to help with the Syrians, Palestinians, even the Israelis. I've asked to meet with Shamir to urge him to be flexible; to listen. We were heartened by his recent statements but then again this morning he hardened his line on territory. We need a small success in the coming days to show the extremists that this process can succeed. (C)

The President: I think efforts by extremists to disrupt using terrorism is totally counterproductive. We need to condemn it. (C)

Foreign Minister Mousa: We are all suffering - you, us, them. That's why we are here. (C)

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The President: Success is the best way to end all of this. You are right that we are affected. As I told Prime Minister Shamir, there will be other incidents. But we can't let these people get their way. We'll need to talk to the Syrians to keep them in the bilaterals and get them in the multilaterals. (C)

Foreign Minister Mousa: You have important influence with President Assad. He listens carefully to you and Mr. Baker. We consult often. We hammer them on the benefits of peace. (C)

Secretary Baker: Nobody has been more helpful than President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amir Mousa. We've been in sync. Without their help it would not have happened. (C)

The President: But we have got a lot to do. We are trying to keep the Israelis focussed on peace. I told Shamir that we have our policy positions and that we will not part from them. We are trying to be fair and not be one-sided as we have understandably been accused in the past. We are ready if necessary to lay out our views on next steps. (C)

Foreign Minister Mousa: Settlements can disturb the entire process. There are reports of a new settlement. (C)

Secretary Baker: It may just be a memorial to those who were killed. At the end of the conference we're going to need a suspension of both the boycott and the intifida proposed to put them on the defensive. It will be important to get Syria on board with this. (S)

Foreign Minister Mousa: We've raised this with them. (U)

President: Good. (U)