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03. Memcon	Re: Meeting with King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan [FOIA EXEMPTIONS REDACTED] (5 pp.)	3/12/92	(b)(1)	S

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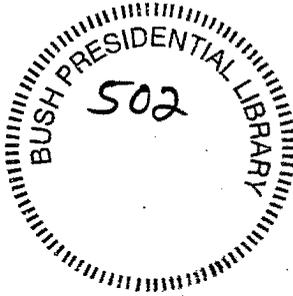
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

LIMITED ACCESS
2013



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Zayd Bin Shaker, Jordanian Prime Minister

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: March 12, 1992, 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. EST
The Oval Office

The President and King Hassan met in the Oval Office at 11:00 a.m.

President: I'm delighted you are here. We receive you with respect. (U)

King Hussein: Our friendship is solid. We have the same goals and objectives. We know your burden. We know we must come in line with the situation. There are extremists wanting to take advantage of the situation. (Ø)

President: Are you under pressure from your left? (Ø)

King Hussein: Yes. And they are working through Jordan with the occupied territories. Today's issues are not easily solved by a slogan. We do have problems. There are 329,000 returnees. We have to cope with them and that means less help to people in the occupied territories. It has been the worst winter in years, and oil has been expensive. (Ø)

Secretary Baker: His Majesty turned the mood around on the peace process. Is it still positive? (Ø)

King Hussein: Yes. It is the settlement problem which is the big issue. (Ø)

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The President: Do people blame us? (U)

King Hussein: Your position is seen as very resolute. (S)

The President: It is tough here but we are continuing a firm stand. We will not yield. Shamir is caught in an election. I don't know what he'll do. We have our own election process here. I'd be glad to hear how it is viewed. (S)

Can I get the toughest problem out of the way: Saddam Hussein. It gives us problems with Congress and others. We say Saddam Hussein must go. I am getting heat for not taking him out at the time. It was not our objective. But he must comply with the UN resolutions. He is going ahead with his nuclear objectives, building things, etc. We think he is totally impossible. If he goes, I will instantly improve relations to give the new regime a chance. We are concerned about leaky borders. Bob Gates will give you the details. We know it is a problem for you. But Congress, the Saudis, the Egyptians are a problem. King Fahd may not like us having a friendly visit, but we must do it. But the sanctions remain a problem and whatever you can do is in Jordan's interest. You heard the question -- the press wants to raise our differences. (S)

King Hussein: I'd love to talk about it. There is a world-wide organization financed by our mutual friends. (S)

Secretary Baker: You mean it's worse? I thought we had made progress. If not, let us know. (S)

King Hussein: Some of it is private money. (S)

The President: We can try to help some more. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: They interfere in our elections. Support for the fundamentalists hurts us also in Central Asia.

King Hussein: We were taken aback by the invasion of Kuwait. Since the war I have had no contact with him (Saddam). All the Iraqis I see say enough is enough. Iraq has suffered enough. I supported him (Saddam) during the Iran war. It is a choice. (b)(1)

(b)(1) Iraqis won't turn to the Saudis, but they might to us. I believe that a unified Iraq is in everyone's interest. We have every interest in working together for this. As for sanctions, Saddam has convinced his people that he is not the target, but

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that they are. How about the borders of Iraq? Would we be sowing the seeds of future conflict? (b)(1)

(b)(1) (S)

The President: It is a difficult issue. (b)(1)

(b)(1) Our reports from Iraq show that Saddam is getting tougher on his people. It is hard to conceive that being conciliatory to him would work. (S)

King Hussein: I'm not suggesting that. The question is how to work to achieve our objectives. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: Without damaging the Iraqi people. (S)

The President: He does that by not selling oil. I don't want to send 500,000 people back in, but he can't get away with this. (S)

Secretary Baker: We have worked with the Saudis and the Congress. The biggest thing you could do to improve the situation would be to say of course you support the UN Resolutions which apply and to permit UN inspectors in Aquba and occasionally to go to the border. This would clear up your position without prejudice to your positions. (S)

King Hussein: I don't have a problem with that. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: His Majesty said it in Iceland. (U)

Secretary Baker: If you would do it publicly it would make a huge difference. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: A public statement would create problems for us but we might be able to do it quietly. (S)

The President: Did you get anything privately from Tariq Aziz that was different from the public? Any comment? We are increasingly worried by Iran. (S)

King Hussein: Saddam has created the impression that if he goes, they all go, and they have no alternative but to support him. We can work together to change this. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: His Majesty spoke three times with high level Iraqis. The half-brother of Tariq Aziz says that if he were in Saddam's shoes he would leave. If the UN plan to

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re-draw the border with Kuwait goes through, the Iraqi people will take that as a national insult and it would be counterproductive. (S)

King Hussein: We need to think out every move, planning the objective and moving to it. The Shiites in the south have no alternative except to look to Iran. (S)

The President: There is no question that Saddam hasn't learned. He is rebuilding and we won't tolerate it. What does Aziz say? (S)

King Hussein: He says he is trying to work out something with the UN which would solve the problem. (b)(1) (S)

The President: (b)(1) It is the one message that we are after. We would be interested in cooperating on it. How about Iran? (S)

King Hussein: They have their own agenda. It's central Asia. Buying arms from the CIS. (b)(1) They have a dream of having a major role in the region. (S)

The President: How about the Saudis? (U)

King Hussein: The same. And the Egyptians talk a better line but nothing happens. The Saudis have the impression we are against them. We have always been supportive of the Saudis. We even sent troops to help them. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: His Majesty tried to contact King Fahd, but he won't respond. He sent a thank you for opening up the border for the 10th anniversary of his rule, for Ramadan. Nothing works. (S)

The President: Maybe the answer is time. Maybe it is a change in Iraq. They like your role in the peace process. (S)

Secretary Baker: Their problem is sanctions and your seeing Aziz on his way to the UN. (S)

Prime Minister Bin Shaker: Aziz just dropped by and His Majesty showed him common courtesy. (S)

The President: We'd like to help but it might take time. If we can solve Iraq that will help a lot. (S)

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Prime Minister Bin Shaker: His Majesty explained how we would participate in the peace process. Now we have a terrible economic crisis. Things are dragging on. Israel makes terrible statements on TV. We have the biggest debt and the worst situation in our history. The peace process won't be done soon, so we have to give our people something so we can continue the peace process. We need your help. We know you can't help financially, but you can tell your friends to fill the gap. (C)

Secretary Baker: We got a good IMF program and a Paris club rescheduling. We are working on the World Bank plan for assistance. We will work for Treasury's support here. (C)

King Hussein: We will have elections some time soon. I want to make Jordan a center of excellence. (C)

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