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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
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2009-0649-MR  
SCS 11/6/11

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Robert Zoellick, Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs  
Thomas M. T. Niles, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs  
David C. Gompert, Senior Director for European and Eurasian Affairs, NSC, Notetaker

Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister of Turkey  
Hikmet Cetin, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ozdem Sandberk, Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs

DATE, TIME July 9, 1992, 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
AND PLACE: Helsinki Fair Center, Helsinki, Finland

The President: Turkey is playing a useful role in the whole region. Thank you for your leadership on the extension of Provide Comfort. We have great confidence in your leadership and I want you to know that you are important to the United States. I admire the way you handled Provide Comfort. You were right to get Parliament on board. Now what's on your mind? (P)

Prime Minister Demirel: I think this was better done by Parliament. It gives Provide Comfort more legitimacy. I believe we have done the right thing to ensure humanitarian protection for the Kurds in Northern Iraq. But we still have some worries. Now that these people are safe from Saddam Hussein we do not know how far they will want to go. We want things to go no further. A Kurdish state in northern Iraq will create serious problems for Turkey. I was pleased with the resolution of the U.S. Congress respecting the unity of Iraq. The USG has also said this and it is useful for you to repeat it. We don't want to give birth to a new Kurdish nation. (P)

The President: I understand. What happened with regard to the bombing incident with Mrs. Mitterrand? (P)

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Prime Minister Demirel: The Kurds have various groups and can't control them all. (Ø)

The President: I would like your view on Bosnia. Will Milosevic back down if we demonstrate the use of force? (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: This problem is not limited to Sarajevo. Milosevic will continue if he is not stopped. It is important to show determination. (Ø)

The President: Do you mean that we should go beyond the humanitarian effort? (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: Perhaps the humanitarian effort should go beyond Sarajevo? (Ø)

The President: Izetbegovic made an emotional case to me just now. He said that heavy arms continue to pour in. What is your judgment about this? (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: I'll tell you what has to be done. All CSCE members must decide that something must be done to stop the massacre otherwise CSCE will have no credibility. We should do whatever is necessary. Everyone is saying that the UN should use military force. How and where to use force is another matter. (Ø)

The President: We are thinking about the structure of NATO/WEU cooperation. (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: Everything should come from the UN. (Ø)

The President: No question about that. (U)

Prime Minister Demirel: Maybe the UN Security Council can make a new decision. (Ø)

The President: We have to decide whether to pursue NATO/WEU cooperation or risk eroding the role of NATO. (Ø)

(After this conversation the President walked with PM Demirel back to the Plenary, during which he raised the subject of Cyprus.) (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --

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