

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Acting Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Arnold Kanter, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
John Bolton, Assistant Secretary for International Organizational Affairs
Nancy Bearg Dyke, Director for International Programs, NSC (notetaker)

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Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General, United Nations
Jan Eliasson, Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs
Marrack Goulding, Under Secretary General, Office of Peace-Keeping Operations
James Jonah, Under Secretary General for Political Affairs
Vladimir Petrovsky, Under Secretary General for Political Affairs
Joseph Verner Reed, Under Secretary General, Special Representative of Secretary General for Public Affairs
Dick Thornburgh, Under Secretary General for Administration and Management
Alvaro de Soto, Under Secretary General

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 21, 1992, 10:25 - 10:40am EST
United Nations, Indonesian Lounge,
New York City

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Thank you for your humanitarian relief effort in Somalia. It is very important for the U.S. to be providing air lift support to carry the Pakistani battalion to Mogadishu. Under Secretary Jan Eliasson is just back from Somalia and the Sudan, and conditions are every bit as bad as feared. (U)

The President: The articles in the Washington Post the last two days that have been critical of the United Nations are strange. (U)

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UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Once troops are on the spot in Somalia, the UN will be better able to diffuse the complicated disputes among the various feuding factions. Greater security for the humanitarian workers will permit wider distribution of food, which should in turn further reduce tensions. Then I want to launch international negotiations for a political settlement. At least in Somalia, we do not face the Yugoslav problem of a harsh winter. (Ø)

On Yugoslavia, the resolution adopted by the Security Council on Saturday on the FRY's status was a compromise. The FRY will not be permitted to participate in the General Assembly, but will be permitted to address the Security Council. The member governments will then review the FRY's behavior at the end of the 47th session, and perhaps move to another resolution. (U)

The President: We have come under criticism from the Turks and Egyptians for being selective in our outrage. Is there a problem on this? I can understand their concerns. (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: I do not believe any real problem exists. Egyptian troops are now in Sarajevo and are in a position to report to Cairo about the extensive relief efforts which Western governments have underway. The criticism is a kind of emotional reaction to press reports showing civilian casualties in Bosnia. Muslim concerns can be selective, too. Burma has forced out 360,000 Muslims (Rohingyas) into Bangladesh. (Ø)

The President: I will talk in my speech today about peacekeeping. I will have a few suggestions. We strongly support UN peacekeeping. (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: On Iraq, I have sent a letter to the Deputy Prime Minister and we are trying once more to have Iraq agree to let assistance go in there. If the Iraqis do not respond positively, we will have to have humanitarian corridors to bring food in from Turkey. We need results in the next few days. Otherwise, there is a risk again of mass migration, along the scale of 1991. (Ø)

The President: I worry about the radical groups in the region. (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Yes. I think humanitarian corridors will be needed. (Ø)

The President: Is there any likelihood of further confrontations between UNSCOM (UN Special Commission) inspection teams and the Iraqi government? (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: I do not think so, but Ekeus (chairman of UNSCOM) will also be carefully following the Iraqi response to the letter I sent to Tariq Aziz. (Ø)

On El Salvador, we have a problem. The land is not distributed yet to the demobilizing soldiers. I have called the heads of the

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IMF and World Bank, and they will have money available for the land redistribution program. So, the issue is not one of resources. We do need to have the calendar respected. (Ø)

The President: We have a problem down there on the demand of the Commission that the Chief of Staff and other top military leaders be replaced. President Cristiani feels that the potential problems caused by a too-rapid change in the military leadership could destabilize the entire situation in El Salvador. (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: We want to do our best on El Salvador. (U)

Secretary Eagleburger: Maybe we could talk about this in our meeting. (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: The UN needs help in Afghanistan. Najibullah is still in the UN compound in Kabul. I recently spoke with Rabbani, and Najibullah's transfer to the Pakistani embassy in Kabul was arranged. He would then travel to Islamabad and subsequently depart for India. But, because Najibullah does not trust the Pakistanis, he reneged on the deal, even though the Pakistanis had pledged to protect him. (Ø)

On Libya, Qadhafi does not trust us anymore. He thinks it is in his interest to have direct talks with the U.S. I have told the Libyans they should provide the information requested by the Perm Three on the renunciation of terrorism prior to the start of the 47th UNGA, but so far we have received none of what has been requested. (Ø)

The President: As always with them, "the check is in the mail." Where does that leave us on the resolutions? The resolutions have to be respected. We cannot just let this matter disappear. (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: We must keep up the economic pressure. As to the defendants themselves, the Libyans wanted to send them to Scotland, wanted to send an observer to the trial, and wanted a commitment that the defendants would not be extradited to the United States. (Ø)

The President: Are the Libyans seriously considering this approach or is it a charade? (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: We do not know yet. But, it is clear that Libya must comply with Resolution 731 and deliver the suspects for trial. (Ø)

The President: What is the latest on Cambodia? (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: I have spoken recently with both Prince Sihanouk and the Khmer Rouge, and I believe if we can find a way for the Khmer Rouge to save face, the Paris accords can be implemented. It is a question of perception. They want to play a role in the future and they need a kind of guarantee. I will discuss this matter again with Sihanouk next week here in New

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York. I also want to argue to the Khmer Rouge that the Tokyo Conference was quite successful, and they should continue in the process or risk being excluded. Success on this also relates to ending the Thai military's money-making trade with the Khmer Rouge. (Ø)

Secretary Eagleburger: We have raised this issue with the Thai in Tokyo and subsequently. (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: It is unclear what impact the new Thai government will have. (U)

The President: Yes, it is too soon to tell. (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Renewed negotiations on Cyprus begin October 26. I believe the extensive difficulties of the Mitsotakis government in Greece make it difficult for Mitsotakis to make any further movements, which weakens Vassiliou's bargaining position. Denktash has shown no flexibility whatever. He is very popular in Turkey at present. (Ø)

The President: The territorial issue is now down to a tiny disagreement. (Ø)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Yes. I believe the real problems now are the future of Varosha, the question of refugee return, and the amenities that might be provided to refugees. However, during discussions on the set of principles and the map, Denktash gave practically nothing. But I do not think the Turks will push Denktash, because they too perceive that Mitsotakis is weak. (Ø)

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