

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telecon with Prime Minister Giuliano Amato
of Italy

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Amato
Interpreter: None
Notetaker: Tony Wayne

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
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SCS 10/16/12

DATE, TIME December 3, 1992, 8:58-9:03 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello, how are you? (U)

Prime Minister Amato: Fine and you. (U)

The President: Just fine. It is nice to talk to you. I am calling to discuss Somalia. (U)

Prime Minister Amato: That is a great responsibility which you have taken on to lead this effort, but I think it is the right thing to do. (U)

The President: I wanted to share with you our thinking and ask for your support in helping us overcome the tragedy in Somalia. I know that Italy has special ties to Somalia and has been working to find a solution. In our view, the situation in Somalia has reached a crisis point. Thousands of Somalis are dying every day. International relief agencies are simply unable to provide the food the people so desperately need. The core issue is security. The Secretary General made this point clear in his report to the Security Council. Despite the UN's best efforts they have been unable to deploy enough troops to do the job. So the United States is proposing that we build an international coalition under UN auspices to create a peacemaking force which can establish the necessary security environment. This would be a swift action and would overcome the opposition of the warlords. These peacemaking forces would get the relief operation off the ground and running. They would then turn over the task of keeping the peace to a regular UN peacekeeping force. So we are going to decide today about the numbers we might provide. But we have already decided to make a major contribution. I hope Italy can join us. (U)

Prime Minister Amato: I think Italy is ready to join. We have our historic ties to Somalia, and we were already ready to join the UN force. So we will be glad to join under a UN flag or

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under a U.S. command. The only problem is to decide how many we can send, and that will take a little time. Already this morning, we decided to send our people to the Pentagon to see what the needs were and the timetables. (Ø)

The President: I am so glad you are willing to participate. They will be quite willing to talk to your people at the Pentagon. We will keep your ambassador here informed, and let's stay in touch. (Ø)

Prime Minister Amato: Yes, the world could not just stand by and let what is going on in Somalia continue. (U)

The President: I cannot tell you the numbers yet for our forces. But I want to go in fast and with enough force to assure that the warlords won't stop the food delivery. Also, thank you for your kind messages of last month and for all of your support. (Ø)

Prime Minister Amato: Good bye for now. (Ø)

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