

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with John Major, Prime Minister of United Kingdom on December 3, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
John Major, Prime Minister  
Notetaker: Michael Sheehan

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 3, 1992, 9:30-9:45am EST  
The Oval Office

The President telephoned Prime Minister Major concerning the present situation in Somalia. (U)

The President: Hello, How are you? I've got Larry and Brent here and I'd like to talk about Somalia. Boutros Ghali has been very supportive. Larry had a good talk with him. We have reached a crisis point. The PVOs and the UN simply cannot get the job done. The core issue is security, and the Secretary General agrees. Our goal is to create an international coalition, under UN auspices, to create a secure environment. The objective is simple: we want to accomplish the mission and get out, not to destroy every weapon in the country. We want to get the coalition going and turn it over to a UN peacekeeping operation. This is a departure from the normal UN peacekeeping role. But it is not high risk and it must be done. It will be a short-lived operation. I met with Powell and Cheney on this and we are discussing the timing. We will make a significant contribution and we will need others to support it. This is not a frantic appeal. We will need others to get involved, we know you are constrained. You are my first call on the subject and I'll be calling others shortly. (U)

PM Major: I am wholly supportive. I think it is the right decision. I hope it is low risk and of short duration. Not as in the case of Yugoslavia. We are very concerned about the situation in Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosova. I am embarrassed that we might not be able to make a contribution. The Defense Secretary is not optimistic. But we are wholly supportive and we will do what we can. (U)

The President: We understand your restrictions. (U)

PM Major: Northern Ireland really nails us down. We have 17,000 troops there now. (U)

The President: Yes, we understand. Thank you for your support and good bye. (U)

PM Major: Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --