

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telecon with Boutros Boutros-Ghali, United Nations Secretary General on December 4, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Boutros Boutros-Ghali United Nations Secretary General
Interpreter: None
Notetaker: Nancy Bearg Dyke

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 4, 1992, 12:05 - 12:14pm EST
The Oval Office

The President telephoned United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali concerning the situation in Somalia. (Ø)

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

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Fine, how are you? (U)

The President: I am fine, and so proud of you and your leadership. I have just concluded a meeting with our Congress, and they are enthusiastic over the UN action and resolution. I will be talking to the American people in just a few minutes, at 12:30, to spell out what we intend to do. I want to thank you. (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: No, I want to thank you very much. This is the first time collective action will be taken on purely humanitarian grounds. I have been often to Somalia. It is the poorest. They don't have oil, only famine. I have been there. They have nothing. This is important for the future of international relations. I want to thank you because I have been trying to mobilize attention to Somalia for the last several months without great success. We are thankful and we have just finished a meeting with our military staff. They pointed out that we cannot concentrate all efforts on the south. The area in the north to Berbera near Djibouti deserves the same attention as the south. (Ø)

The President: We are aware of the problems in the north. Colin Powell addressed those in our meeting. The initial effort will be in the south, but we will not forget and we will help all areas. I will get some criticism, I know. We do not mean it to be open-ended. We are working hard with your people to get peacekeeping in behind the peacemaking. We are going to move very soon, and I am going to announce the warning order to Secretary Cheney now. Landings will be with considerable force.

I am sending you a letter of appreciation and spelling out our objectives. (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Thank you very much. I have received good news from Addis Ababa. My representative had a good meeting, and we hope to begin a conference of reconciliation January 1 in Addis Ababa. (U)

The President: Good. Anything like that is very good. I was asked about restoring order to the country, and I said that is not our mission. It is in your hands. I really just called to thank you. We will do our job with compassion. There will not be a U.S. lasting involvement. Larry (Eagleburger) came back with appreciation for the wonderful conversation he had with you. And, it took guts for you to express support so strongly. We are working together. Secretary Cheney just came in; General Powell was here earlier. Brent Scowcroft is here. Brent will be in touch if needed. He is available, as are Cheney, Powell, and Eagleburger, and I am available any time. (U)

UNSYG Boutros-Ghali: Thank you very much. (U)