

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

0113

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

2009-0737-MR

3 6/1/11

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister of Turkey on December 24, 1992 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey
Interpreter: None
Notetaker: Jane Holl

DATE, TIME: December 24, 1992, 11:48 - 11:53 am EST
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: How are you sir? (U)

Prime Minister Demirel: Fine Thank you Mr. President. How are you? (U)

The President: Well first, happy holidays, Merry Christmas. Barbara and I are at Camp David with the family calling to say thank you for the Provide Comfort extension. It is a wonderful thing. Hope there is no grief on your side. (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: No, no. We understand matters. We were able to make our Parliament understand too. (Ø)

You know, our soldiers are on the way to Somalia. (Ø)

The President: Well I know it and we're grateful. We're glad to be associated with your wonderful troops. I'll be there on the first of January to see our soldiers. (Ø)

Well, the other thing I'd like to mention is that I'm worried about northern Iraq. I'd like to get your views on it. (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: I don't think too many things will happen. Saddam won't dare to do anything; that's my personal opinion. He has troops, as you know, but I don't think there will be any more craziness. (Ø)

The President: Well, I hope you're right. I'm a little worried about the UN trucks having bombs placed on them. We don't need a flare-up on your border and a Kurdish refugee flare-up again. (Ø)

Prime Minister Demirel: We have good relations with Kurdish leaders and they are helping with our fighting against terrorist

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

groups. We are continuing our fight with terrorism. I think we will succeed. (S)

The President: Well I hope so. I wish you well. I wanted to call on the first subject but also ask your opinion on others. (S)

Prime Minister Demirel: Thank you. I think what's going on in Bosnia is very bad. We've discussed this many times. We're very sorry and the Turkish public is very upset. I know your commitment. The CSCE and UN Security Council credibility has been eroded. With the new world order how can we keep peace with 100,000 killed in Bosnia? I'm going to speak with Mitterrand and have discussions with him about this. I discussed it with John Major you know. Something must be done one way or the other. (S)

The President: Well that's true. The Secretary General is very wary of doing anything. Vance and Owen are wary too. We're more forward looking. I met with the Central European foreign ministers and told them we all should do more. (S)

Prime Minister Demirel: Definitely, I know your view and we are very close to your view. (S)

The President: It's preying on my conscience. We want to do something but we have to be in concert with others. It would not be good to do something alone. (S)

Prime Minister Demirel: Best regards to you and your family. (U)

The President: Well, same to you. I'm proud of our relationship. Sorry it won't be continuing but I'm sure the new team will work out. (U)

Prime Minister Demirel: Well, we will cooperate and collaborate anyway with the new administration. (U)

The President: It will work out. Turkey and the U.S. have a strong relationship. (U)

Prime Minister Demirel: Thank you. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~