

Informal Memorandum of Conversation

President Bush / Prime Minister Major

Sunday, January 17 1992

Call initiated 0708, call terminated 0711

President: ...so we will proceed this evening Iraq time. We will go north and knock out the remainder in the south.

PM Major: I entirely agree. That's fine. The difference with not attacking the North is that there would be no connection with UNSCOM, and I'm glad to see that's resolved. In the south, there's a different set of provocations. We'll need to get the PR right for the south. If we attack both, I think that's right.

President: You don't have any idea how we should handle Mitterrand? You've been right before.

PM Major: I have no advice on Mitterrand as of this morning.

President: So we'd better give him a call. I think he'll come around...maybe we should call his people first.

PM Major: I believe he'll be O.K. What I think caused all the trouble Friday was that he received some reports from his military that caused some consternation.

President: You're probably right. Let's get the signals moving forward. We'll give General Hoar the signal to wind up the missiles and go south once I've talked to you.

PM Major: That sounds absolutely fine.

President: How are you doing? How's the weather over there?

PM Major: I'm sitting here at your air base in Alconbury.

President: I've still got Mulroney here. We'll cross the t's and dot the i's with Steven.

PM Major: Good man...hope you're doing all right.

President: All the best. Good-bye.

PM Major: Best.