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01. Memcon	Re: Meeting with Prince Bandar Bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador to the United States (6 pp.)	2/22/90	(b)(1)	S

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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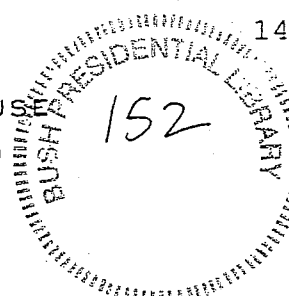
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

~~SECRET~~

1492

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMCON

Not H.S.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prince Bandar Bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador to the United States

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Robert Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor
Sandra Charles, NSC Staff, Notetaker

Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, Saudi Ambassador

DATE, TIME: The Oval Office
AND PLACE: February 22, 1990; 11:20 - 11:45 a.m. EST

The President and Ambassador Bandar met briefly in the Oval Office at 9:20. (U)

The President: It's good to see you. How is the King? (U)

Prince Bandar: He sends you his best regards and a letter. (U)

The President: Thank you. (b)(1) We are not overly relaxed about the situation there. (S)

Prince Bandar: Nor are we. We support the two-track process. If military pressure is kept up the two track process might produce something. (b)(1)

(b)(1)

The President: (b)(1) And there is the drug problem. (S)

Prince Bandar: We worry about this too. (b)(1) (S)

The President: How? Who supports him? Are we? (U)

Bob Gates: His support has been reduced, but some is still getting through. (b)(1) (S)

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8/12/2009
2000-0429-F

The President: The Congress is nervous. When the Soviets went out, we thought the Muj would take over. Our assessment was wrong. I admit we were wrong. (S)

Prince Bandar: We had the same assessment. (U)

The President: (b)(1)
(b)(1) Unless the Soviets agree, it won't happen. They don't want a radical regime on their border. (S)

Prince Bandar: (b)(1) We are in agreement with your plan. (b)(1)
(b)(1) An election process to show... (S)

The President: For a shura? (C)

Prince Bandar: Yes...to show development. Also your continued talks with the Soviets can help. We are puzzled at how much Gorbachev is spending in Afghanistan with their internal problems. (S)

The President: (b)(1)
(b)(1) He told Baker they don't want a radical regime. (S)

Bob Gates: From our talks with the Soviets, it was clear they do not want to lose face. They want us to give them a way out. (S)

Prince Bandar: (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

The President: I agree that Gorbachev must save pride and save face. Then I agree with your original point: (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

Prince Bandar: It is an unnecessary drain economically. (C)

The President: And now these films are surfacing here. Films of children dying; beautiful children, on both sides. (C)

Prince Bandar: I agree you definitely won't sustain Congressional support for long. This has to be kept in mind. We need to push hard. (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

The President: Does anyone really have any influence with him? (U)

Prince Bandar: (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

The President: (b)(1)

(b)(1) When is the King coming? (C)

Prince Bandar: I believe we are thinking of blocking a time in late July before your summer holiday. Congress will not be here then. After that he can go for his operation. He will probably go to Hawaii or bring his boat to recuperate on. (C)

(There was a lot of small talk at this point on Aspen and possible recuperation sites for the King.)

Prince Bandar: The King likes the sea. (U)

The President: Then maybe we should meet in Maine. Let's offer that. I use any excuse to go there. (C)

Prince Bandar: On Lebanon... (U)

The President: Is there anything new going on? (b)(1)

(b)(1) (C)

Prince Bandar: (b)(1)

(b)(1) (C)

The President: And now Christians are killing Christians. (U)

Prince Bandar: Yes, this episode of Christians killing Christians is the worse in 15 years. We don't see an end to it. (S)

The President: Is the Foreign Minister still involved? (C)

Prince Bandar: Yes, His Majesty has not given up. (C)

The President: We have great respect for what the Tripartite Group did, rescuing this from failure. As you know, Aoun has quite a following here. (C)

Prince Bandar: But it is interesting that they have been mute recently. It seems they are disappointed with him. (C)

The President: Let us know if you have any thoughts on a role for us. We have limited influence with Syria and Aoun, but there is a strong emotional commitment here to Lebanon. (C)

Prince Bandar: On Syria, Assad has become an interesting case. There appear to be a lot of changes for the better taking place. The changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union hit him hard, which is not bad. This might be a good time for you to court him. (S)

The President: We have been thinking along the same lines. If there are changes, if doors open and it can be linked to contacts with us, then we would not be opposed if it resulted in progress.

(S)

Bob Gates: Reports show that Assad was hit hard by Ceaucesceau's death and the way it happened. (S)

Prince Bandar: We have been groping for things we might do. (C)

The President: He is a minority in the Ba'ath party, isn't he?
(U)

Governor Sununu: I could see a scenario where we would guarantee contact with him if the outcome was successful. (S)

Prince Bandar: You could work with Assad, through us, to set the stage, to precook something. It would have to be done like that because of your problem with China. If the news were to come out, you would need flexibility. But if it is good news, then it is okay. (S)

The President: It's best to rely on an interlocuter. hile things look brighter, we can't see how to move forward. (S)

Prince Bandar: His Majesty wanted you to know he hopes the peace process will go forward. It is high time. He supports your efforts, and Secretary Baker and Mubarak. I understand Arens will be here in the next few days and maybe there will be some movement. (C)

The President: He's coming tomorrow. I talked with Shamir earlier. I was not encouraged or discouraged. I hoped the Likud party victory wuld give him more strength, and maybe some hope. We also talked about settlements. I told him our policy had not changed -- settlements are not helpful. (C)

Prince Bandar: We are trying to have more civilized relations with Jewish supporters in Congress and Jewish leaders for two reasons. We hope that will have an impact on your efforts in the peace process. We also agree that we are not opposed to emigration -- anyone who wants to should be allowed to do so -- but settlements we oppose. (C)

The President: There is a separate problem with East Jerusalem. We appear to have a disconnect. Even in the American Jewish community there are differences on this. We need to make it clear we mean all the occupied territories. I've done that. I am glad you are talking with Jewish leaders. There isn't blanket opposition to our position which is good. (C)

Prince Bandar: I have had good results. (U)

Governor Sununu: He has talked with Jack Stein and others. (S)

The President: What we have done is explain to Congress our settlements policy in as direct terms as possible. We also have to make it clear to Israel. I have done that. Still there are some up there who will have differences no matter what we say. (S)

Prince Bandar: We believe your position has lessened the impact of emigration. If I can have a 180 more seconds to mention three more things: first King Hussein's recent visit to the Kingdom. (S)

The President: Was it routine? (U)

Prince Bandar: Basically it was to (b)(1)
(b)(1) -- to tell him we are on board with him, that he is playing a constructive role and we are backing him to the hilt. (b)(1)

(b)(1) We are worried about Jordan so we are helping them. Your giving them moral, military and financial support also is important. (S)

The President: (b)(1) (S)

Prince Bandar: I think his trip helped. We also are working with the GCC to get financial help. With Mubarak, we are doing the same thing trying to reassure him. (S)

The President: (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

Prince Bandar: (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

The President: (b)(1)
(b)(1) (S)

Prince Bandar: (b)(1)
(b)(1) The last thing is energy. In the future this will be an important area for US-Saudi cooperation. We are working with Secretary Watkins on future cooperation. His Majesty believes it is important to depoliticize oil. We can't afford to have policy affect oil; we cannot play games. (S)

The President: This is in our interests. Your working with Secretary of Energy is the right course. I have full confidence in him. We have been living fat, dumb and happy. The concept of depoliticizing oil is in our national security interests. (S)

Prince Bandar: It is mutual. (U)

The President: I support your talks with Watkins, but not being familiar with the details I can't give them a blanket endorsement. But I agree we've got to get the politics out. This will make for steady, sound relations and no bumps in the road. (S)

One thing, on Yemen -- I believe I sent the King a letter on this -- in our trying to help Yemen, we are not interested in getting into your business. But if we can help there, maybe it will bring more peace to the Horn and that area. I want to assure you that we will always be in touch on this. (S)