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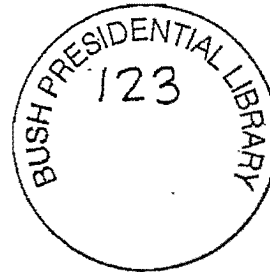
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali of Egypt

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
John R. Bolton, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs
Thomas R. Pickering, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
Nancy Bearg Dyke, Director for International Programs and Public Diplomacy, NSC Staff

Boutros Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary General-Elect
Abdel Raouf El Reedy, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States

DATE, TIME December 5, 1991, 1:00 - 1:20pm EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Congratulations on your election as United Nations Secretary General. When do you take office? (U)

Dr. Ghali: I take office officially the first of the year. (U)

The President: I wish you well. We are proud of you. You were so well received by the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. The UN is so much more relevant now given its leadership in the peacekeeping and peacemaking fields. You are coming in at a very important time. (U)

Ambassador Pickering: There was very significant support for him. (U)

The President: [REDACTED] (b)(1)

Dr. Ghali: There is concern. The Libyans may use this to make trouble. (S)

The President: I hope they understand we are preoccupied with the peace process. Wanton killing is not something an American

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President can be sanguine about. When you see Hosni (Mubarak), please convey that we are convinced of the guilt of these men; there are very powerful indictments. I have to be responsible about standing up against terrorism. I hear you and I know there is concern about force but I want to be sure they know of our concerns. (C)

Dr. Ghali: There is special concern in Egypt because we lost a large number of jobs and therefore remittances during the Iraq problem, and having that possibility again puts us under pressure. I agree though that we have to cope with it. (C)

The President: We have conveyed to Mubarak our concern and the very deep concern in this country. People are saying, "You have got strong evidence, and now what are you going to do?" It's a great concern. The top official in his intelligence operation appears to have taken part in this. (C)

Boutros, good luck on the UN. I meant what I said about the importance of the UN. When the press was in here, I should have mentioned my respect for Javier (Perez de Cuellar) and his help on the hostages. Anything you can do on bureaucracy is very important. It is hard to do, but when a new broom comes in, it is good to sweep up. The changed political situation in the Soviet Union makes it perhaps easier on reforms and personnel than before. I see the position as a reform Secretary General. The more streamlining and efficiency, the more US support in Congress. Because of UN success, we have stronger support; and the more we can get the support you are entitled to, the better. (U)

Dr. Ghali: I am committed to reform in the next 2-3 months, though I won't say so publicly. (U)

Ambassador Pickering: You will have strong support in New York. (U)

The President: Is your wife looking forward to this? I speak for Pickering and his marvelous wife and Barbara - anything we can do to make her feel comfortable we will do. Perhaps she would like to have lunch here to meet our top wives. Just tell Tom (Pickering) and we will do it at the White House. (U)

Dr. Ghali: Thank you. It will help me in my job. (U)

The President: I hope it will. We all feel grateful that this is your first out-of-New York call, and we note the seriousness of that. We hope you feel you are among friends. (U)

Dr. Ghali: Yes. I am recalling Camp David. From September 15 to November 15, 1978, I was at the Blair House (Egypt-Israel peace) talks. We called the Madison Hotel, where we stayed, "Camp Madison." (U)

The President: We are involved in that now. Is there anything new, Jim (Baker)? (U)

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Secretary Baker: We are working on a date - maybe it can be decided soon. (U)

The President: Tom (Pickering)? (U)

Ambassador Pickering: There is a tremendous atmosphere in New York -- and many challenges. People have been talking for 1-1/2 years about reform. People are willing to take your leadership. (U)

The President: How about the General Assembly vote? (U)

Ambassador Pickering: It was unanimous, followed by clapping. (U)

Dr. Ghali: Yes, there is a new consensus. (U)

The President: There may be times when you will wonder what is happening in Washington. Ask Tom or call Baker or me. We want to help and be at your side. Multilateral diplomacy and efforts provide opportunities, and we will be alert. Feel free to call opportunities to our attention. (U)

Dr. Ghali: I want to be successful. I can't be without your assistance. (U)

-- End of meeting --

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