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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Mubarak
of Egypt (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Mubarak
C. David Welch, NSC, Notetaker

DATE, TIME June 8, 1990; 10:33 - 1042 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Iowa

President Mubarak initiated the call; the President, traveling in Iowa, was patched through by White House Signal. (Ø)

The President: Hello, Hosni, how are you? (U)

President Mubarak: Hello, George, how are you? (U)

The President: I'll bet I know what you're calling about. Well, I'm worried about the same thing, the dialogue with the PLO. But I'm delighted to hear from you -- I followed your role in Baghdad, and I want to tell you how much I appreciated it. (U)

President Mubarak: I sent you a message two hours ago outlining the situation. Did you receive it? (Ø)

The President: No, I didn't see it, but I am in Iowa. When did you send it? (Ø)

President Mubarak: I sent it about four hours ago. Please read it. It is regarding the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It is very important to keep it (the dialogue) now; if it is cut, it will create a hell of a problem. (Ø)

The President: I realize that but there's another side. We have concerns about these acts of terrorism. The PLO has renounced terror but can't bring itself to denounce it. If they (the PLO) don't denounce this terrorist action now it will be difficult to maintain a dialogue with them. Have you got any idea what he (Arafat) will do? (Ø)

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2000-0429-F
JL 8/21/09

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President Mubarak: It is very difficult for Arafat. There are different Palestinian factions that want to destroy peace. These groups, like Abul Abbas and Habash, want to destroy Arafat, so they are doing this to corner him. (Ø)

The President: Is he so weak that he can't condemn it? (Ø)

President Mubarak: There is a balance of factions. Some do not want to put it (terrorism) to an end. (Ø)

The President: Hosni, let me add something. We have other serious concerns about the PLO and terrorism beyond this event alone. I think the bottom line is clear: We would prefer to keep the dialogue going but the PLO needs to make its choice also. I think that they think they are not getting anything for these talks. There is a need to push the peace process. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I am trying, but it is difficult. There is a great benefit for your friends in the Arab world from the dialogue. (Ø)

The President: I agree -- but this thing was so obvious. Did you see that kid on TV talking about shooting up hotels and vacationers? It would be hard to sustain the dialogue if Arafat won't denounce that. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I'll try and will do what I can to get him to make a statement. I'm doing a big effort with my neighbor (Libya). They are in a terrible mess. You know he came here right from Yemen. He's sending them out of Libya (the PLF) -- the whole Abul Abbas group. I am also telling Shamir not to retaliate now. (Ø)

The President: Your message is not here yet. There is a need to denounce the act; then everything can be sustained. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I am pressuring my neighbor. Really, I am putting a hell of a pressure on him. He's sending those people out. (Ø)

The President: I hate this situation. I agree the talks have been very good for the other moderates, the reasonable countries. But this goes against the covenant he made. If he could denounce it, then we could hold the line. I'm getting pressure from a lot of quarters. (Ø)

President Mubarak: The composition of this council (the PLO Executive Committee) is terrible. It is very difficult for him to control. (Ø)

The President: I saw that one member of the committee denounced it. Arafat should say so himself. If he denounces Abul Abbas, then that gives us something to work with. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I will try; I'll do it today. (U)

The President: We see that a new government is being formed in Israel. There are difficulties ahead... (Ø)

President Mubarak: That's life. (U)

The President: We will push ahead for the peace process. (U)

President Mubarak: I will wait for a few days until the new government settles in. I'll try contacting Shamir again. (Ø)

The President: That's helpful. I must say, he says the right things. (Ø)

President Mubarak: Well, goodbye George. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
2000-0429-F

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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: National Security Council
Series: Presidential Telcon Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: CF01731
Folder ID Number: CF01731-018

Folder Title:
[Memorandum of Telephone Conversations (Telcons) - January 1990-July 1990]: June 1990
