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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from President Turgut Ozal of Turkey (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, President
Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME August 14, 1990, 5:28 - 5:35 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

President Ozal initiated the call. (U)

President Ozal: I saw your press conference on CNN and wanted to call. (U)

The President: How are things with you? (U)

President Ozal: Everything is all right. Let me tell you about the embargo. I believe there is some misunderstanding. The pipelines in Turkey and Saudi Arabia are closed. If they are stopped, that means there is no oil revenue for Iraq, and no money to pay for food shipments. If there are some ships coming into different ports, they may be those underway before the embargo. Maybe your quarrel with the French and Soviets is a misunderstanding. (Ø)

The President: We don't really have a quarrel with them. The press is making too big a deal over this. We are having very friendly talks with the Soviets and the French, so that story from my perspective is projecting more opposition than exists. I think we're looking at this pretty much the same way. As far as I am concerned, the French have been very cooperative. I don't think we're having a dispute with them. (Ø)

President Ozal: One other thing: the Kuwaiti Prime Minister visited us today and brought with him letters from the Emir regarding Article 51. (Ø)

The President: Yes, that is what gives us legal authority. (U)

President Ozal: I told him we already have legal embargo measures in place. Turkey is the key country, because it is the only country that has enough goods inside the country to give Iraq. If we stop, Iraq cannot buy from others. We are also blocking goods coming from Europe by highway and shipping through our ports. There is already news from Baghdad that they have prohibited the sale of sweets and pastries. (Ø)

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The President: Right. Maybe the embargo is making a difference sooner than we expected. (Ø)

President Ozal: I think so. When you talk to King Hussein, be careful. He shouldn't side with Iraq. (Ø)

The President: Yes. The press is talking about a letter from Saddam Hussein, but we don't know about that. (U)

President Ozal: Before Washington he was in Baghdad, so maybe he is bringing news, either orally or in a letter. (U)

The President: Perhaps. He didn't say anything about it to us. Let's stay in touch. I have great respect for the actions Turkey is taking, and I hope you are right that the sanctions are taking a bite much sooner than we thought. (U)

President Ozal: I hope so. There is Aqaba and Kuwait harbor, but if they don't have money, how will they pay? (Ø)

The President: That's encouraging. I hope the Emir will follow through and support you on the financial side, as he said he would. (Ø)

President Ozal: I hope so. We need to show our people that we are not just doing this for Kuwait. We need a strong hand to show our people. (Ø)

The President: That is a good point. Thanks for your call. Is there anything else we should discuss? (U)

President Ozal: No, that's all. Thank you, Mr. President. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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