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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

8050

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Call to King Fahd of
Saudi Arabia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Fahd
Interpreter: Shukran Kamal
Notetaker: Sandra Charles

DATE, TIME October 25, 1990; 12:50 - 1:00 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office.

The President initiated the call to King Fahd.

The President: Your Majesty, how are you today? (U)

King Fahd: I am glad to speak with you. (U)

The President: I am glad to speak with you too. I am calling to say I am pleased that Saudi Arabia's policy of steadfastness and strength about Iraq has not changed. I feel more strongly than ever that Saddam's aggression should not be rewarded. It would be a terrible precedent for other aggressors should he acquire territory or get another concession before he does what the UN calls on him to do. Your statement was terrific. And I will do my best to insure that there are no rifts, no divisions in this strong, international coalition. (Ø)

Ozal of Turkey told me of his good conversations with you. And I am looking forward to seeing Colin Powell and hearing about what he found. Again, we appreciate all the generous support we are getting. I feel it is important to get the rest of the U.S., Egyptian, and Syrian troops there as soon as possible. (Ø)

I am going to ask, with your permission, that Secretary Baker come consult with you early next month to be sure we are together on our ultimate objective. On Ozal, he is as strong as he can be, and on the same wavelength as you and I are on. He still is concerned about the economic impact of the sanctions, particularly on oil, and would appreciate whatever help can be provided there. (Ø)

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I am still shocked by the horrible reports of the brutality against Kuwait, the uncivilized, unprincipled behavior by Iraq and the way he is treating American, Kuwaiti, and other hostages. It is brutal, terrible. (Ø)

Again, the real reason for this call is simply to say thank you. I am comfortable we are on the same course, and grateful for the hospitality being shown to our young people in the Kingdom. Thank you very much. (Ø)

King Fahd: First, let me assure you our position in Saudi Arabia is the same as the United States. It has not changed; it cannot be changed, and it will not change. Let me assure you, Mr. President, that no one in the world can influence or sway us in this. I am pleased to receive Secretary Baker and will expect him. (Ø)

The President: He will be reflecting my views about what we must do in the future. Before I hang up, I had one question: what affect do you think the sanctions are having right now? (Ø)

King Fahd: First, they have had a good effect, a very good effect. This is based on reports we are receiving from Iraq that they have had an effect on the Iraqi economy and the people of Iraq. With regard to Ozal, we will do everything we can to reassure him and to make him feel comfortable. (Ø)

The President: It was nice talking to you. I hope I will be seeing you one of these days. If you see any problem, anything from the United States, please just pick up the phone anytime day or night and give me a call. I am determined to stay in close touch with you, and I would welcome a call any time, so please feel free to keep in touch. (Ø)

King Fahd: I would like to assure you that the people of Saudi Arabia stand in solidarity behind me; there are no problems. (Ø)

The President: That's wonderful. Good-bye and my respects to all. (U)

King Fahd: Good-bye. I hope to see you soon. Many thanks. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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