

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

1309

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Mubarak of Egypt on
February 22, 1991

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

DATE, TIME February 22, 1991; 10:08 - 10:14 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President returned President Mubarak's telephone call. (U)

President Mubarak: I received your message and its points. I have read them and sent you a message. (Ø)

The President: Thanks, I got your message. I don't see how we can have a 72 hour delay, Hosni. Today, Iraq set fire to almost the entire Kuwaiti oil fields, including wells, shipping points, and distribution facilities. Kuwait is almost invisible under the smoke. This has happened at a time when we are sitting and talking -- Saddam sends Aziz to Moscow to talk peace and then he burns the oil fields. We can't have a 72 hour delay. As you know from your military commanders, the forces are moving and they are ready. I don't want to go into any specifics on this line, but you know of this already. I think it is time for a statement that says we appreciate what the Soviets have done, but we demand that you (Iraq) get out and do so right away. If we don't do this, then he will just continue to burn and rape Kuwait. That's our only difficulty with your points -- we can't delay for 72 hours. This is a good cop, bad cop routine: he's the bad cop; while Aziz talks peace, he launches SCUD's and puts the torch to Kuwait. You can't even see it from the air anymore. I hope you can agree. He will have to pay the price. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I hope you can explain in public about the burning. (Ø)

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The President: I'm going out in front of CNN and the whole world in just 20 minutes, and I'm going to tell them. I will mention it as another reason for urgency, and a reason for the ultimatum. I will make this as a U.S. statement, but I want the coalition together. I've spoken to Mitterrand, and the Turks have checked in. I believe everyone is mostly together on this. I would like your support. (Ø)

President Mubarak: Right -- I didn't know this information before. (Ø)

The President: I am going to call Gorbachev now to tell him that we have a proposal, and then I'm going to do the 10:30 statement. Bessmertnykh called with some new ideas. Unless he withdraws soon, we are prepared. It will be fast, it won't take long. The military will be very quick. (Ø)

President Mubarak: Yes, well, thank you very much. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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