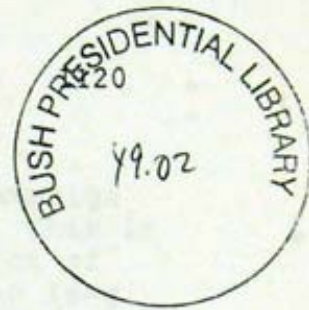


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone conversation with Moroccan King Hassan (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Hassan
Interpreter: Alec Toumayan
Notetaker: John W. Montgomery

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: February 12, 1991; 3:50 - 4:26 p.m. EST
The White House

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

King Hassan: I'm fine Mr. President, and you? (U)

The President: I'm calling to express my appreciation for your friendship and support in the international effort to bring about Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. We haven't talked in a long time and I wanted to call up and ask how things are going on your end. But first a couple points I want to make. From our commanders I hear your troops are making an excellent contribution in Saudi Arabia; the others in the multinational coalition are grateful, and certainly I am, for Morocco's role. I also know this is not an easy time for you or your people. I know of the divisions and difficulties. I was thinking that it might be valuable if we could have a serious exchange of views so that you could hear first hand how I see the situation in the Gulf and where I think we are headed. If you think it would be useful, I ask that you receive Larry Eagleburger, my very trusted right hand man at State, he's the number two there who is close to me personally and a man whose advice and judgement I value greatly. What I have in mind is a private, unpublicized and quick visit in the next several days. He will come to see you and report back to me, so that we can exchange our views in confidence, out of the public eye.

[REDACTED]

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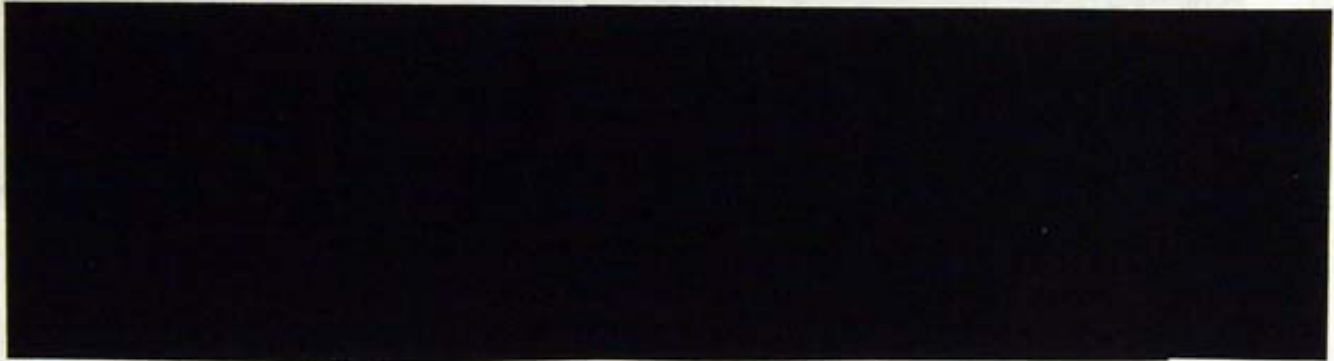
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Saddam Hussein is making an enormous public propaganda campaign to try to prove that we are targeting cities and people. This is not true, we are not targeting civilians and there is a lot of evidence to prove this. The main thing is it has been too long for this kind of exchange and if you agree it is useful I would like to ask him to come. That said, I am sensitive to your problems at home and if you think this is not a convenient time, I will postpone the trip if you think it is necessary. (U)



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The President: Yes. (U)



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The President: Yes, I understand. (U)



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The President: Yes. (U)

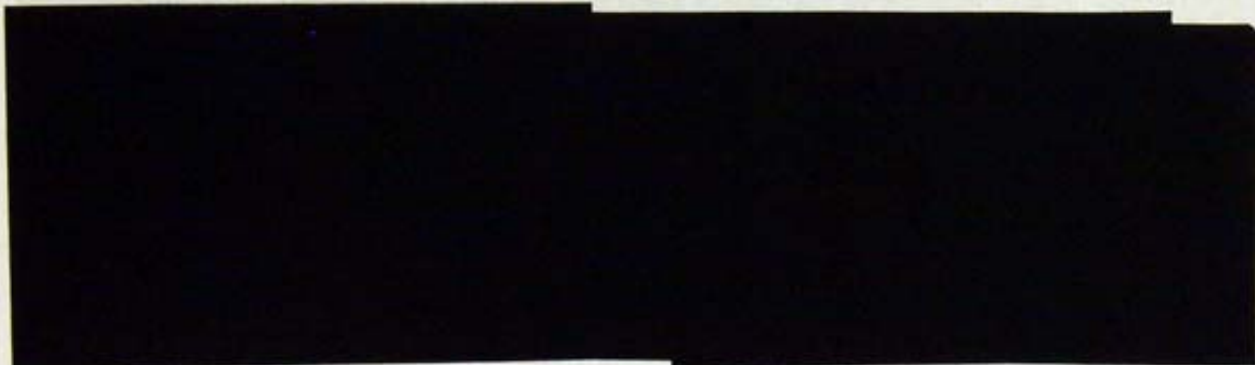
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King Hassan: Did you read Saddam Hussein's latest speech? (U)

The President: I'm not sure which one you are talking about. I think I saw a summary but not the whole speech. (U)



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The President: I hope you understand a couple points if I might reply here. (U)

King Hassan: Yes. (U)

The President: In the first place, the U.S. is not there to settle some past differences. They are there under the UN mandate, twelve resolutions having spoken loud and clear. Please let me assure you that I understand exactly what you are telling me about the role of Moroccan troops and I am glad you clarified that to me. (U)

Secondly, I am inclined to discount most offensive personal rhetoric coming from Baghdad but I'm more determined than ever to fulfill the UN mandate and I think most of the other countries with whom we are allied in this cause feel the same way. In other words, I listened to the speech without an Arab insight but I heard nothing about withdrawal from Kuwait. Therefore, there can be no conditions and no pause until that time. (U)

King Hassan: Basically, Mr. President, we are exchanging impressions, right? (U)

The President: Right. (U)



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The President: Yes. (U)

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[REDACTED]

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The President: Exactly. (U)

[REDACTED]

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The President: We recognize our special role in what comes after Iraq withdraws from Kuwait. I have mentioned that the only difference, and I feel strongly about it, the only problem is I don't think Saddam Hussein can justify taking Kuwait with the Israel-Palestinian problem; they are not related. Let me say, I appreciate your willingness to see Larry Eagleburger and I hope you will share your thoughts on the post Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait with him. We already are looking at that. Larry Eagleburger is familiar with my thinking on it. I am anxious to hear your thinking. This war won't go on much longer. I say that not with machismo but because I am confident that our forces will prevail quickly when and if we move to a ground campaign.

(S)

It is essential to make clear to our Arab friends we don't want a ground presence of U.S. troops in the area as Iran thinks and Saddam Hussein accuses us of wanting to do. In any event, Larry Eagleburger will be prepared [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] to discuss this most important phase you raised with me. That is my responsibility and I will face up to it. (S)

Lastly your majesty, I can't tell you how much I appreciate what you said about our friendship. It is very important to me personally and we shall never forget your kindness to us and to my family before I became president. (S)

King Hassan: Mr. President, this is only so natural because friendship is not like temperature. Temperature goes up and down. Friendship remains constant. (U)

The President: Frankly, I regret very much the pressures with Jordan. I also have a friendship with King Hussein, but it is regrettably being strained by his recent actions. I can empathize with him, there are tough strains on him but I understand. I will not let this interfere with our relations after the war. (S)

[REDACTED]

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The President: Exactly. (U)

[REDACTED]

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The President: I think that is true. Let me assure you I have no rancor in my heart. If there is any there, it is for Saddam Hussein personally. I do feel a certain rancor when I see the treatment of our POWs, or the acts of environmental terrorism, or missile pointed toward cities to kill innocent people. But I have no rancor for the Iraqi people, its culture, its history, or cities, only for this brutal man. (S)

King Hassan: Mr. President, I was very happy to talk to you. I want to ask you extend my kind greetings to Mrs. Bush. (U)

The President: I will tell her. She's out seeing the families of some of our troops this afternoon. I will convey your regards and I am sure she will be touched by your kind words. (U)

King Hassan: I will wait to be contacted by your ambassador to make arrangements for the arrival of your envoy. (U)

The President: Thank you very much and I can't tell you how much I appreciate our having this conversation. (U)

King Hassan: I appreciated it as much as you. (U)

Good byes.

-- End of Conversation --

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