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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION (Partial -- covers Iraq only)

SUBJECT: Meeting with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the United Nations (U)

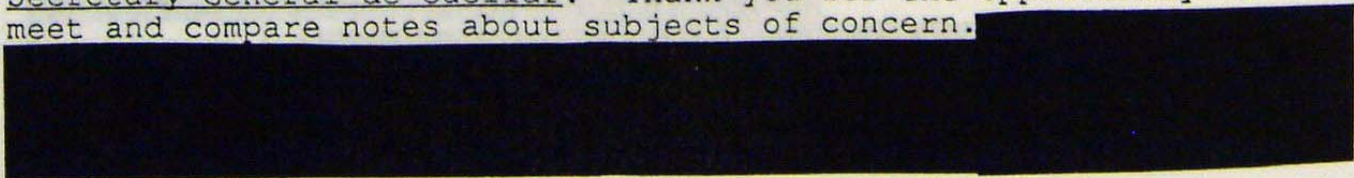
PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy for National Security Affairs
John R. Bolton, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations
Thomas R. Pickering, US Ambassador to the United Nations
Nancy Bearg Dyke, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary General
Virendra Dayal, Chef de Cabinet, Under Secretary General
Ronald Spiers, Under Secretary General
Carl-August Fleischhauer, Under Secretary General and Legal Counsel
Jean-Claude Aime, Acting Assistant Secretary General
Alvaro de Soto, Executive Assistant to UNSYG
John Washburn, Director, Representation Unit
Lisa Buttenheim, First Officer, Executive Office of UNSYG (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: May 9, 1991, 11:35 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Cabinet Room

The President: Mr. Secretary General, we are so glad to have you and your colleagues in the White House. We talked in the Oval Office about Iraq and El Salvador. I want an open and frank discussion among us on all subjects of interest. (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: Thank you for the opportunity to meet and compare notes about subjects of concern.



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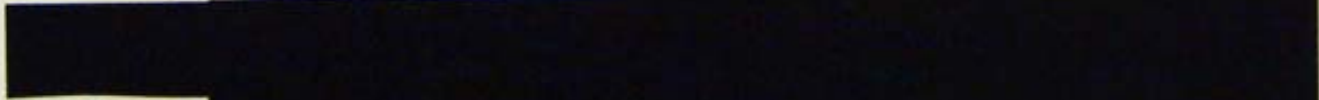
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The President: The US position is: The UN has done a superb and historic job during the Gulf crisis. We are very supportive of what you did in Iraq. In my view, by enhancing the political/peacekeeping function the UN offers great hope for the future. We want to get out of Iraq. People were dying and we responded. No one else could respond massively as we did. People are coming down from the mountains now. So far, there has been no confrontation with Iraq. They probably feel we are interfering in their internal affairs, but someone has save the people. Obviously some security is required for the UN workers.
(U)

Our goal is to get out as soon as possible. It is the international responsibility to protect these people. We will look into another resolution if that is what you are convinced is required. Iraq is in no position to exact demands from the world after what they have done. We will continue to save lives. We will go to the UNSC and ask for a new resolution. The same coming together will be required as for the Gulf. I wish the former resolutions could come together instead of having a new one. (S)

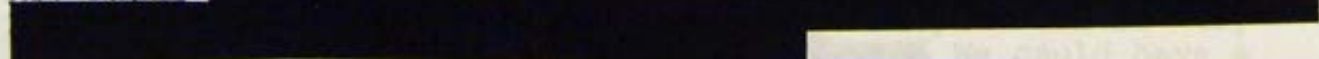
Secretary Baker: We will have to approach this with care and prudence and split the difference between security for the refugees and humanitarian relief so we get no veto or opposition on the basis of interference in internal affairs. This is humanitarian relief. The UN cannot get its relief people in if there will not be security. We will have to do quiet consultations with the Perm Five before we say anything publicly.
(S)

Secretary General de Cuellar:



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Mr. Daval:



The President: [redacted] (S)

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Mr. Daval: Yes. (U)

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Secretary General de Cuellar: [REDACTED] (S)

The President: I would like to turn to implementation of UNSC Resolution 687 and make a few comments. The Iraqis have grudgingly accepted 687 in principle. I hope this bodes well for Iraqi compliance with the requirements. I want to compliment the UN on the job it has done so far. Elimination of weapons of mass destruction is an extensive and difficult job. We will continue to support the Special Commission with experts, logistics and specialized equipment no one else can provide, and will encourage other countries to provide both cash and in-kind contributions. (S)

I am not certain how the implementation will work out but I am convinced we will not let up on sanctions except for humanitarian relief which is provided for. I owe it to our coalition partners to say this to you and to them. I don't know the future of Saddam Hussein but we are not going to lift the sanctions if he is there. (S)

Secretary General de Cuellar: Implementation of UNSCR 687 is being coordinated by (Under Secretary) Ron Spiers. (U)

Ambassador Spiers: Sanctions cannot be lifted until the US agrees; it is vetoable. We have to keep watching whether the sanctions deteriorate. On implementing 687, it is going pretty well. The Special Commission will have a big job. [REDACTED] (S)

The President: At what level is the UN dealing with the Government of Iraq on this? (U)

Mr. Dayal: [REDACTED] (S)

Ambassador Spiers: There is a potential problem on 687 -- financing. When we add it all up, it will be very expensive. Voluntary funding may not work. (U)

The President: How much? (U)

Ambassador Spiers: Destruction of chemical weapons can be very expensive. [REDACTED] We could have a real environmental problem if we burn the weapons. Until we know the situation, it is hard to know the cost. (S)

The President: What about the other parts of 687? (U)

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Ambassador Spiers: Those are easier. Boundary demarcation and other efforts will cost something, but there are not the same uncertainties as with the Special Commission. On claims, the UNSYG must recommend the percentage taken on each barrel of oil Iraq sells. (U)

Ambassador Pickering: [REDACTED] b1

Secretary General de Cuellar: [REDACTED] B1
[REDACTED] (U)

Mr. Fleischhauer: The UNSYG is called on to set the upper ceiling and the UNSC sets the actual figure. The UNSYG has initiated consultations with international financial organizations on this. (U)

(Discussion in Cabinet Room continued on other subjects.)

Luncheon discussion about Iraq:

Secretary Baker: [REDACTED] b1

Secretary General de Cuellar: Hmm. (U)