

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMCON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hussein of Jordan
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Hussein
Notetaker: C. David Welch

DATE, TIME August 24, 1990; 4:06 - 4:12 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport

King Hussein initiated the call. (U)

King Hussein: How are you, sir? I have some good news. I wrote the President in Iraq. I appealed to him to help out on the guests there. In response, Iraq has stated that the families and children of all foreigners, including Americans, can leave. I don't know what that means but it seems to be good news. (Ø)

The President: That sounds very good. What exactly does it say? (Ø)

King Hussein: It is a small message. Our communications with Baghdad are not very good. It says: The families and children of all foreigners, including Americans, can leave. (Ø)

The President: But not of others...? (Ø)

King Hussein: This is probably a first step. Somehow if the atmosphere can improve, then the situation may take a turn for the better. If there is a feeling on both sides, if both said that no aggression is planned, then maybe one could do more. (Ø)

The President: The display on television yesterday was appalling. Maybe he intended differently, but it came out bad. In addition, ships are still steaming out. Well, I appreciate the call. I consider it good news. For anybody to get out, it's good news. We don't call them guests -- we think they are hostages because there are demands. But this is a good step -- but what should be done is the question. We have the same problem here as in Lebanon -- one gets out, then they ask "OK, what will you do?" (Ø)

King Hussein: He isn't asking but I am suggesting that if a way can be found to improve the atmosphere, maybe we can help. (Ø)

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The President: We still have a great problem with him holding folks against their will, or staked out someplace. (S)

King Hussein: We will stay in touch. I'm going to try to form a group to work on a solution. (S)

The President: When will this release be announced, do you know? (S)

King Hussein: Shortly. I was just letting you know in advance. (S)

The President: Thanks very much. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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