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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Thatcher of the United Kingdom (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister  
Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: August 3, 1990, 3:03 - 3:10 p.m.  
The Oval Office (U)

The President: Margaret, I am interrupting, I know, but I am going to Camp David and wanted to fill you in. (U)

Prime Minister Thatcher: Perhaps I could tell you what is going on at home. Shall I begin? I spoke with Douglas Hurd today. The Overseas and Defense Committee has agreed, first, to support sanctions so long as they are collective and effective, second, to freeze Iraqi assets, and third, to send two more frigates up north. It will take them five days to get there. We thought it best to move them to join HMS York off Abu Dhabi. Tomorrow we will try to persuade our European partners to adopt collective and comprehensive sanctions. (Ø)

The President: That is very good. Brent will be talking with Woerner. I just finished talking to Ozal. I was struck by the toughness and severity of his position. He called Saddam Hussein another Hitler who needs to be taught a lesson. I asked about the pipeline and said we would stand with him. He didn't say yea or nay, and I didn't press him. I gather he is prepared to work with us. He said he would call Fahd, Rafsanjani, and the Syrians. (Ø)

I have been in touch with Bandar here. You have heard about the Arab meeting. My fear is of handwringing by offering a payoff to Saddam Hussein. Shevardnadze said he had assurances from the Iraqis that they would move back. There are also stories of some Americans being held, but we have no evidence concerning American citizens or yours. (Ø)

We are reserving every option, because if we don't handle this properly, through a coordinated effort, we would be laying ourselves open to a bigger problem down the road. I will have a meeting in the morning with our defense experts, and I will ask about degrees of military force that might be used. Meanwhile, I hope there will be a solution. (Ø)

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Prime Minister Thatcher: I hope so, too. But the more preparation we make, the more likely we will get Saddam Hussein out. I agree. It is so serious that we can't do anything else but get him out. (C)

The President: Thank you. It was good seeing you in Colorado, and I loved standing there next to you. If anything comes up, Brent is here and will get in touch. I am going to fill Kohl in and Mitterrand. I don't know where they are at the moment.... (C)

Prime Minister Thatcher: Genscher told Hurd that they support sanctions so long as they are comprehensive and effective. He was a bit waffly, but not bad. They've agreed, without telling anyone, to go for unification on October 1 [proposal actually was for all-German elections on October 14] instead of December 1 [elections had been set for December 2]. (C)

The President: That's interesting. I didn't know. Thanks for your assistance. (C)

Prime Minister Thatcher: It was a very valuable talk we had. Thank you for all the kind things you said at Aspen. (U)

The President: It's easy when you believe them. I told Brent to keep you informed. (U)

-- End of Conversation --



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