

Date: August 7, 1990

Time: 1329 EDT

From: A. Mann, S/S-O

To: S; S/S

Subject: The Secretary's Telephone Conversation with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze

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The Secretary wanted to make sure Shevardnadze had received the message Ambassador Matlock had delivered earlier in the day. He stressed that the actions described in the message were taken purely for Saudi Arabia's defensive needs. The Secretary said he was leaving on Wednesday (8/8) for Ankara at the President's request to consult with the Government of Turkey. On Friday, the Secretary will be in Brussels for a NATO meeting. He said he would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Soviet Ambassador in Brussels to brief him. The Secretary also raised the possibility of a multinational naval force to prevent the export of Iraq and Kuwait oil if the UN resolution on sanctions is not effective. He asked if the Soviets would have an interest in participating in such an effort.

Shevardnadze asked if a decision on the matters raised in the message had already been taken. The Secretary said the President had reached the decision yesterday evening (8/6). Shevardnadze then wondered what he was being consulted about. He reminded the Secretary of their airport conversation in which he had asked the Secretary not to rely on military force. He stressed that the Soviet approach had not changed. He said that after the second UN resolution on sanctions Iraq should have been given the opportunity to tell the world its attitude on the document.

Shevardnadze said it is very difficult to say what the consequences of the American action will be. The Soviet Union would consider this action exceptional, extraordinary and temporary and any military forces should leave as quickly as possible. He added that the Soviets are prepared to discuss any future plans and ideas, and suggested the military staff committee of the UN Security Council as a possible forum. He also noted that the Soviet Ambassador in Brussels would be prepared to meet with the Secretary in Brussels.

The Secretary replied that only one thing had been decided and there are still many other multilateral efforts to contain Saddam Hussein's aggression; which have not been decided. He said no offensive actions were planned - it was strictly to deter; the decision was taken at the request of the Saudis; the U.S. considered this an extraordinary matter; and the assistance would remain only as long as the Saudis wanted it. In keeping with their airport conversation, the Secretary assured Shevardnadze that the U.S. does not intend to strike at Iraq, but the U.S. reserves the right to protect its citizens, and to defend Saudi Arabia and the free flow of oil.

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