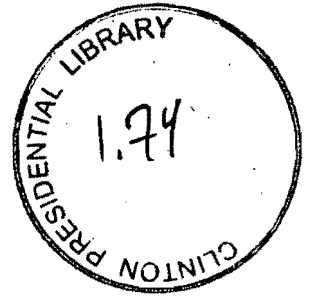


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

NOTE TAKERS: Jim Smith and Frank Jarosinski

DATE, TIME December 17, 1998 -- 12:18 p.m. - 12:23 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, Hosni. (U)

President Mubarak: Yes, Bill, how are you? (U)

The President: I'm fine, and you? (U)

President Mubarak: Fine. (U)

The President: I just called to discuss a couple of things. The Iraqi operation seems to be going well. We have some damage assessment that indicates good results, and all our pilots have come back so far. (C)

President Mubarak: Good results, then? (U)

The President: Yes. (U);

President Mubarak: This is very good. (U)

The President: The strike will be significant and will continue for some time, but I think it is important to degrade his capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction and his ability to threaten his neighbors as much as possible. The Gulf countries are giving us all the cooperation we need and King Fahd and Abdallah are supportive of what we've done. I think we're in good shape. I am grateful for your prompt clearance for overflights and Suez passage. (S)

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President Mubarak: Yes, we're making all the decisions needed.
(U)

The President: I think what you said before about Saddam Hussein being entirely responsible for this chain of events was very valuable, and if you have a chance, if you will reiterate that -- (C)

President Mubarak: I already mentioned that yesterday, and today we made a communique saying that I talked to Madeleine Albright yesterday. (C)

The President: That's good. I also wanted to say that I had a pretty good trip to Gaza and Israel. (U)

President Mubarak: It was a wonderful trip, I told Madeleine Albright it was a wonderful trip, and I praised it publicly today on TV. (U)

The President: Thank you. I'm a little concerned about the possibility of a short-term problem because of the unstable political situation in Israel, because you know the temptation is always there to do things that are not constructive, and they may even wind up having elections before long. We'll try to deal with it and keep it on a good track. I'm glad I went to Gaza. I hope it helped Arafat, and I hope the historic sympathy of the Palestinians for Iraq won't undermine him too much. (S)

President Mubarak: I think your visit was a historic visit. Arafat -- whom I met yesterday -- Arafat and his group were all very pleased with that. On Iraq, expect some small demonstrations, but don't give it any attention. We had very small ones. (C)

The President: Thank you. I expected that and it didn't bother me. (U)

President Mubarak: Yes. (U)

The President: Are you doing well? (U)

President Mubarak: Yes, I'm doing very well. Your visit, your trip and speech were very well-balanced and appreciated. (C)

The President: Thank you. I think the Israeli public is coming along. The problem is, when they have elections there, Israeli

society is getting more complicated, and a lot of people get elected to the Knesset for reasons that don't have much to do with the peace process. Then we have trouble getting a solid majority to do the right thing. I'll just keep pushing. A survey in Israel indicated that 80 percent agreed with what I said to the Palestinians, so it was helpful, I think. (S)

President Mubarak: I asked P1(b)(1) one of the Labor party; I met him today and had long talks. (C)

The President: Yes. (U)

President Mubarak: I think there'll be elections in April or even before April. (C)

The President: Yes. We'll keep working on it. (U)

President Mubarak: We're always working. We never stop working, Bill. (U)

The President: Thank you, Hosni. (U)

President Mubarak: Thank you. Give our best regards to Hillary. Everybody appreciated her words and visit there. My wife sends her best regards. (U)

The President: Thank you. Tell her hello and that we hope she's well. (U)

President Mubarak: Thank you. I'll tell her that now. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

President Mubarak: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --