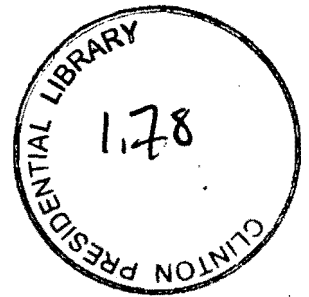


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan

NOTE TAKERS: Joel Schrader, James Smith and Frank Jarosinski

DATE, TIME December 18, 1998 -- 11:48 a.m. - 11:54 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, Prime Minister? (U)

Prime Minister Sharif: Mr. President, how are you? (U)

The President: I'm fine. Thank you for taking my call. (U)

Prime Minister Sharif: It is a great pleasure listening to your voice. (U)

The President: Thank you. I really enjoyed our meeting earlier this month, and I hope the rest of your visit to the United States was a good one. (U)

Prime Minister Sharif: It was very good, and I thank you for your kind and generous hospitality. (U)

The President: Well, thank you. Let me say, too, that I understand we have reached a solution to the F-16 issue. (C)

Prime Minister Sharif: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: And I am very pleased by that. I know you want to complete this by the end of the month, and we will do everything we can to meet that deadline. (C)

~~TOP SECRET~~

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Prime Minister Sharif: That is very kind of you. I will announce this myself to the people of Pakistan in the next few days. ~~(C)~~

The President: I have been trying to do this for four years. It's been a point of embarrassment to me, and I've been trying to put it right. I feel very good about this. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Sharif: I will tell the people of Pakistan that this is what the President of the United States has done for Pakistan, that this matter is resolved. ~~(C)~~

The President: Let me also say that I called you about another issue that is urgent, and I need your personal help. We have reliable intelligence, and quite a lot of it, that Usama bin Ladin intends to strike a U.S. target very soon, perhaps in 48 hours, and that the operations -- there may be two of them -- are being orchestrated by bin Ladin from within Afghanistan. Now, all I can tell you is this is not in reaction to Iraq; he's been working on this. I think it is imperative the Taliban do everything it can to bring him to justice. I think Pakistan has a lot at stake in the Taliban being accepted in the international community, and if this happens it will become virtually impossible. We have warned the Taliban repeatedly that we will hold them responsible, and we will warn them again. I wanted to ask you to do whatever you can to stop this immediately. I cannot overstate the importance or urgency of it. He has this cooking in the next several days here. We are talking to the Saudis again about it. Anyway, I wanted to tell you I am very, very worried about it and the consequences if it occurs. ~~(TS)~~

Prime Minister Sharif: I understand your anxiety and your position, Mr. President. You know, I told you in Washington that the Taliban are very stubborn and very uncooperative people. I told you what transpired between us and the Taliban and also Saudi Prince Turki, who came especially from Saudi Arabia on that particular issue and they were very stubborn. We will do everything we can, I assure you. I will send my people tomorrow to Afghanistan to meet with them and discuss this with them, and tell them this will not be in their interest and it will serve no purpose, that it will invite retaliation and a world reaction. I will do whatever I can, I can assure you of that, but you must understand they are very stubborn and uncooperative. ~~(TS)~~

The President: Yes, I understand, but there's a difference between being uncooperative and not giving him up, and being uncooperative and allowing him to conduct operations. Those are fundamentally different things. I hope you can bring that home to them. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Sharif: I wish I can. (U)

The President: I know you will try; that is all I can ask you to do. (U)

Prime Minister Sharif: I have and I will. They don't listen to us all the time. I'm very disappointed with their attitude.

~~(S)~~

The President: Thank you. Thank you very much. (U)

The President and Prime Minister Sharif exchanged closing pleasantries. (U)

-- End of Conversation --