

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD

DAMASCUS, SYRIA - NOVEMBER 2, 1988 - 10:15 AM / 12:40 PM

BEGINNING PLEASANTRIES ABOUT MY PREVIOUS VISITS, ESPECIALLY MY RETURN TO ANN IN 1984. TOLD HIM OF THE JOYOUS CELEBRATION WITH FOOD, GYPSIES & MEAK. HE LAUGHED & SAID MEAK WAS THE NATIONAL DRINK. WE DISCUSSED ^{THAT} THE "SPICE" OF AMELIA WAS THE FOREIGN BORN OR THEIR CHILDREN ^{THAT WOULD} BRING ~~THE~~ TRADITION & CULTURE TO THE U.S., BUT KEEPING A SENSE OF THEIR ROOTS. HE SAID RICHARD MURPHY SPOKE OF THE IRISH BACKGROUND. I SAID I WAS A DEVOUT AMERICAN WITH A SYRIAN BACKGROUND. HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS INVITATION (TO SO. AMERICANS / ARABS) TO "CAMP" IN SYRIA IN 1985 FROM "PIONEERS" (TO 12 YRS) TO COLLECT THE YOUNG MEN & WOMEN. TO LIVE WITH OTHER YOUNG SYRIAN PEOPLE. APPARENTLY GOING ON NOW. I SAID THAT WAS GOOD BUT COMING WITH PARENTS TO THEIR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS HOME ALSO WAS GOOD. HE ASKED IF I HAD RETURNED TO MY VILLAGE ^{THIS YEAR} AND YES, SUN & HONEY TO MAKE & GOOD. HE KNEW THE LOCATION OF THAT PLACE.

I TOLD HIM ONE THIRD OF MY THREE WEEK TRIP WAS DEVOTED TO SYRIA, TO SEE HOW I COULD ASSIST THE COUNTRY. THAT THERE WAS A PLACE FOR A PERSON LIKE ME TO CREATE AN UNOFFICIAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE U.S. & SYRIA, THAT I HAD OBSERVED FOR YEARS, THROUGH KISSINGEL, RABIB, ETZ, ATTEMPTS BUT NOTHING WAS CHANGED. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, A DIFFERENT SYSTEM IN TANDUM WITH OUR OFFICIAL SYSTEM WOULD WORK. I REMINDED HIM OF OUR FIRST MEETING WHEN HE SAID SYRIA IS ON ONE SIDE OF THE TABLE & THE U.S. & ISRAEL IS ON THE OTHER & THAT THE U.S. MUST MOVE IN-BETWEEN. THAT THE U.S. WAS WHO MISGUIDED POLICIES SUCH AS ILLEGALLY SYRIA IN THE PERES PROCESS WHICH I STATED IN SYRIA IN 1985 & PUBLICLY IN THE U.S. I TOLD HIM THAT IN 1984 THAT I WAS A DEVOUT AMERICAN & HIS REACTION WAS "GOOD, THAT'S ALL WE ASK". I TOLD HIM I SAID THE SAME TO SHAMIR WITH NO REACTION.

AT THIS POINT THE PRESIDENT LAUNCHED ON A LONG TALK ABOUT PAST HISTORY, FROM WOODROW WILSON & TALKS IN VERMONT WHERE ENGLAND & FRANCE WANTED A MANDATE - A ~~PARTITION~~ ^{PARTITION} OF WHAT ONCE WAS SYRIA (JORDAN, PALESTINE, LEBANON) & EVEN A STATES IN NOW SYRIA. THE U.S. OPPOSED SUCH A MOVE. IF THAT HAD NOT HAPPENED, PRESENT UNREST, FIGHTING (& ISRAEL) WOULD NOT EXIST. HE SPOKE OF A TEAM FROM U.S., ENGLAND, FRANCE & ITALY TO SURVEY TO SEE IF THERE SHOULD BE A MANDATE, THE ANSWER WAS NO

BEHAVING PROBABLY ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE EXPORT SECTOR IN THE
AND IN THE TOP PART OF THE EXPORT SECTOR WITH THE EXPORTS

I ALSO SPOKE ABOUT SO. KOREA'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP, REQUESTED
BY AMB. AN (KORWAT). HE TOLD ME OF MR. KORB'S LONG TIME FRIENDSHIP
& MET IN '74 W/AM BY LEAVING PILOTS. THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME
ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.

THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.

THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.

THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.

THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS CURRENT & SOME ECONOMIC WOULD BE A START.

BUT IF THERE BE ONE IT SHOULD BE UNDER AMERICA. MOLO INSTANTLY FOLLOWED. (MOVING "THE PEOPLE" AGAINST THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOODS & THEN PUT DOWN THE UNREST)

MY RESPONSE WAS THAT WHAT HE AND ALL SAID WOULD FIND NO DISAGREEMENT WITH ME. THEN I PURSUED THE CONCEPT OF MY BEING AN UNOFFICIAL CHANNEL. THAT I THOUGHT THAT AMB. DZELIJAN WAS A VERY GOOD "NO NONSENSE" AMB, & FEEL VERY COMFORTABLE WITH HIM, BUT HE HAD OFFICIAL CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH HE MUST WORK & WAS SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED BY THAT. THE PRESIDENT AGREED THAT AMB. DZELIJAN WAS A GOOD MAN & HE FEEL COMFORTABLE WORKING WITH HIM & THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER & OTHER WHO MET WITH HIM FEEL THE SAME.

FINALLY, I ASKED HIM WHAT METHOD OF CONTACT I SHOULD USE TO CONVEY MESSAGES TO HIM. HIS RESPONSE DIRECTLY BY ME ^{TO HIM} IN PERSON. THAT NOT BEING POSSIBLE CALL HIS SECRETARY D. ISKANDAR LOUKA - 335960 (PRIVATE) OR 231112. IF HE WAS NOT ABLE TO LEAVE A RETURN # TO CALL (I GAVE ~~HIS~~ LOUKA'S PRES. ASSAD & ADWAN BARNIET, HIS INTERPRETER, MY CARD). ALSO I COULD USE DIPLOMATIC POWER THROUGH THE SYRIAN EMBASSY (BUSHA KAWZANI) WITH MARKED PRESIDENT RAFAZ ASSAD - "TO BE OPENED ONLY BY THE PRESIDENT". I TOLD HIM IN MY RETURN I WOULD PROPOSE THE SAME TO GOOLBE BUSHA & RELAY THE RESULT TO HIM.

HE SAID, PLEASE SEND VICE-PRESIDENT BUSHA MY PERSONAL GREETINGS WHICH I SAID I WOULD. HE ALSO SENT HIS PERSONAL REGARDS TO MY WIFE & CHILDREN.

NOW, WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLD?

NOTE: WALEED MOALLEN, SEC. OF FOREIGN MINISTRY

ADWAN BARNIET, PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETER, DAMASCUS, SYRIA
710830 PRIVATE PHONE // 660639 HOME