

**Memorandum of Telephone Conversation between Mikhail Gorbachev and
Helmut Kohl
20 February 1991
[excerpt]**

Gorbachev: Hello, Helmut. How are you? I am happy to continue our conversation.

Kohl: Hello, Mikhail. [...] What's your assessment of the situation in the Persian Gulf region? Did you receive an answer from the Iraqis?

Gorbachev: Not yet, I am waiting for a message. But I want to say that we had a tough conversation with them [Tariq Aziz].

Kohl: Today information emerged that they have declined the plan.

Gorbachev: We are not aware of that.

Kohl: Information agencies have reported that they intend to fight to the victorious end.

Gorbachev: So far, I have not received such a response. I will inform you as soon as I receive it.

*[Source: Archive of the Gorbachev Foundation, Fond 1, opis 1.
Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive.]*