

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Telephone Conversation with Finnish President Koivisto

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Rudolf V. Perina, NSC (Notetaker)

President Koivisto of Finland

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 23, 1989, 10:42 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Oval Office

The President asked President Koivisto how he was.

President Koivisto replied he was well and asked if it was morning in Washington.

The President said it was morning. He said he wanted to thank the President for his congratulatory telegram. He wanted to continue the personal relationship he had with him, and to wish him well.

President Koivisto said this was very nice of the President. He said the President had gotten a very good start, with very favorable press coverage.

The President said jokingly that that would change. He had big budgetary problems which would change the press. But he wanted to continue the good relationship with Finland and with President Koivisto.

President Koivisto thanked the President and said he had interest in keeping this connection open.

The President said he wanted to do that also. He had made this clear to Brent Scowcroft, who was of the same view. The President said he had discovered that the White House had a sauna, though it was not as good as a Finnish one.

President Koivisto said he would see.

The President said that he and Mrs. Bush still fondly remembered the hospitality of their last visit to Finland. He again thanked President Koivisto for his message, and the two men said good-bye.