

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Schlueter of Denmark

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Barry F. Lowenkron, NSC (Notetaker)

Prime Minister Schlueter

DATE, TIME January 24, 1989, 3:10 p.m. - 3:21 p.m.  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Prime Minister Schlueter said he was delighted with the excellent start of the President's Administration. The President said that both he and Mrs. Bush were delighted with the Prime Minister's congratulatory message.

The President said that he had put together a strong national security team headed by Secretary Baker and General Scowcroft. Prime Minister Schlueter said he knew both of them. The President said that the United States would be a steady partner. Prime Minister Schlueter said he did not doubt it.

The President said that he did not want to play "defense" all the time, and that he would be interested in the Prime Minister's views on how to set the NATO agenda. He said he appreciated the political problems the Prime Minister faced, and he considered the Prime Minister a friend.

Prime Minister Schlueter asked the President for his thoughts on a NATO Summit. The President said he thought a Summit built around the fortieth anniversary of NATO was a good idea. He asked the Prime Minister for his recommendation on where to hold the Summit. Prime Minister Schlueter said that the location was not as important as the fact that it take place soon. The President said he was leaning toward Brussels, although the British were interested in hosting it as well. As for timing, the President thought late May or early June was most appropriate. Prime Minister Schlueter said that was fine with him. He then stressed the importance of the President meeting with the NATO Allies before meeting with Gorbachev. The President said he agreed completely, emphasizing that Allied consultations would precede any meeting with Gorbachev.

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The President said that the Prime Minister was always welcome to contact him on any issue.

Returning to the issue of the NATO Summit, the President said that he thought that Brussels was the most appropriate site. Prime Minister Schlueter agreed.

The President said that he and Mrs. Bush were looking forward to meeting the Prime Minister and his wife. Prime Minister Schlueter said he felt the same way, and thanked the President for the call.

The conversation ended at 3:21 p.m.