

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Call to Salvadoran President-Elect Cristiani, March 22, 1989 (✓)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Alfredo Cristiani
Paul J. Lebras, WHSSS (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: March 22, 1989, 2:43 p.m. - 2:48 p.m.
Oval Office - Cristiani's home

The President, after an initial exchange of greetings, indicated that he did not wish to delay his congratulatory call any longer, even though the election results had not yet been certified. He asked Cristiani when he thought the certification would occur. (✓)

Mr. Cristiani responded that the certification had taken place about a half hour before. (✓)

The President replied that his call was even more timely then. (✓)

The President congratulated Cristiani on his wonderful win, saying that the United States supports the government and people of El Salvador in their efforts to build democracy. The United States also understands and applauds El Salvador's efforts to defend its society against terrorism. The President said that his call had two purposes, to congratulate Cristiani, and secondly, to welcome Cristiani's commitment to democracy. (✓)

Mr. Cristiani thanked the President and stated that the objectives of the United States were also those of El Salvador. (✓)

The President next asked if it would be convenient for Cristiani to come to Washington soon. The President said that Cristiani's clear-cut win, certified by the U.S. observer delegation composed of both Republicans and Democrats, made it appropriate that Cristiani come to Washington at an early date and meet with members of both parties on Capitol Hill. (✓)

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Mr. Cristiani replied that it would be a great honor and that he was planning on traveling to the United States during the first two weeks of April. (Ø)

The President asked Cristiani to suggest some specific days to make sure that he could fit Cristiani into his schedule. The only potential problem, the President stated, was an out-of-town visit he planned to make at the end of the first week of April and the visit of President Mubarak [of Egypt] early the following week. Nevertheless, the President said, he would make arrangements to meet Cristiani. (Ø)

Mr. Cristiani replied that he would work out specific dates with the U.S. Embassy. (Ø)

The President said that he had great confidence in Bill Walker [U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador] and that Walker would be here in Washington with the President and Cristiani. (Ø)

The President closed by saying that Cristiani had many friends here in the United States and that we need to dispel misapprehension by liberal elements that El Salvador will change its view on the democratic process. (Ø)

The President and Mr. Cristiani exchanged closing salutations and the call was concluded. (Ø)