

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONDECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
2000-0429-F
ZC 8/21/09

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico
Notetaker: William T. Pryce

DATE, TIME July 24, 1989, 2:49 - 2:54 pm EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

President Salinas greeted the President in English with "Hello Mr. President, this is Carlos Salinas de Gortari." (U)

The President acknowledged by affirming "This is George Bush." (U)

President Salinas stated that he wanted to call to share with the President the satisfaction he and the Mexican Government felt with the finalization of the Debt Agreement. (U)

The President responded that he was very pleased to hear of President Salinas' satisfaction; that Mexico had come a long way and that President Salinas had his respect for the way he had approached the situation. The President expressed his delight in knowing that President Salinas was in a position to express his satisfaction with the way things worked out. (U)

President Salinas replied that he wanted to express his personal recognition and thanks for the unfailing support that the President and United States Government officials had given in this matter. He mentioned that Secretary Brady had been especially helpful. (U)

The President reiterated his delight over the situation and said that both countries needed to do what was necessary so that the deal would come to a close. He said that President Salinas must be relieved, and that they both should monitor the situation and see to it that no bilateral problems cropped up which would get in the way of the economic progress which is greatly needed. The President said that he would do what was needed on the U.S. side and that there shouldn't be much of a problem. (U)

President Salinas replied that the relationship between Mexico and the United States was such a good one that if any minor problems surfaced, they should be easily worked out. (Ø)

The President continued that his people had been thrilled with the work the Mexican negotiators did. He said that from what he had read and heard, things were moving better on the narcotics front where he felt we were now making better progress. The President said that both sides had some "tough guys." (Ø)

President Salinas agreed with the President and informed him that within the last six months, Mexico had seized at least 15 tons of cocaine with a street value of over \$15 billion. (Ø)

The President expressed awe at the quantity. He then said that before President Salinas got off the phone, he wanted to say something about having him come for a visit, and wondered if it would work out for President Salinas to come to Kennebunkport. He said that he and Mrs. Bush would be up there for the last two weeks in August over the Labor Day weekend. (Ø)

When President Salinas did not respond, the President mentioned the possibility of an informal visit to Camp David if that were preferable, adding the he just wanted to renew the offer of an informal visit which would show the special friendship that exists between the two of them. (Ø)

President Salinas said that he had heard that the State Department had invited him for early October. (Ø)

The President said that General Scowcroft had mentioned that to him, and that whatever they worked out would be fine. The President suggested to President Salinas that if he were to come for a visit in October, perhaps they could have supper at Camp David, that the details could be worked out later. He added that he did want to do something special, rather than the usual formal thing. (Ø)

The President added, when President Salinas did not respond, that he thought that if President Salinas were going to New York, or somewhere else in the United States, they could get the Bush and Salinas families together at Kennebunkport. The Bushes would ask Jeb and their daughter-in-law and it could be very informal and relaxing. The President added that if President Salinas were in New York, he could perhaps fly up to Kennebunkport for the evening. He added that he thought it was important to demonstrate the special friendship that the two men felt toward each other, or at least, what he felt for President Salinas. (Ø)

President Salinas responded by saying the President was very kind, that he too felt that they had a very special relationship; that he was sure that Mrs. Salinas would enjoy an informal visit;

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that anything which could be worked out would be fine with him; and that he very much appreciated the President's sentiments.

(S)

The President asked President Salinas to please say hello to Mrs. Salinas and reiterated his congratulations for the debt settlement. The President said that because of President Salinas' persistence and firmness, the banks had set a pattern that would be helpful in other countries of the hemisphere. (S)

President Salinas thanked the President again for his cooperation on the debt situation and the conversation ended on a cheerful note. (S)