

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

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Phone Call to the President from the
Pakistani Prime Minister

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Bhutto
Notetaker: Sandra Charles

DATE, TIME,
AND PLACE: August 5, 1989, 10:43 p.m. - 10:53 p.m.
Camp David

The Prime Minister began saying she was sorry to trouble the President but that he had said she should phone him if she had a problem. The reason she called was because she was having some difficulty with the President of Pakistan. Three months earlier he had threatened to directly abolish the Assembly. Without going into the details, she was calling the President to get his support for the democratic process in Pakistan and to restrain President Ghulam from carrying out his threat. (S)

The President responded that of course we strongly supported the democratic process in Pakistan, but he really needed to know the details of the problem. (U)

Prime Minister Bhutto said the problem had to do with the armed forces and the assignment of military officers. She explained that under the constitution the Pakistani President appointed officers and she retired them. President Ghulam tried to keep the current Chief of the Joint Chiefs in his job longer; she hadn't agreed with him and wanted to retire him. President Ghulam had then threatened to abolish the assembly. (S)

The President asked if she wanted a statement or something from us. (U)

The Prime Minister responded affirmatively. (U)

The President then said we would contact our Ambassador in Islamabad immediately to get the facts from him, and then we would see what we could do to try to help. He told her he would talk with our Ambassador, and report her call to General Scowcroft and Secretary Baker. (S)

The President then turned to the hostage issue, saying if she had any direct contacts or any thoughts on the hostage situation, we would appreciate her ideas. (S)

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~SECRET~~

The Prime Minister responded that they had already taken it up with Iran and Syria counseling restraint, and they would be happy to do anything we might advise. (Ø)

The President, in closing, noted that the Algerians were being helpful, and we hoped Pakistan could also help on this. (U)