

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica
Notetaker: David A. Pacelli
Stenographer: Pat Battenfield

DATE, TIME August 22, 1989, 1:07 - 1:16 p.m., EDT
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport - Prime Minister's Office

The President telephoned Prime Minister Manley to discuss the OAS meeting on Panama. (Ø)

The President began by saying, "Mr. President, how are you?" (U)

Prime Minister Manley replied, "Fine, thank you, Mr. President; very nice to hear your voice." (Ø)

The President said that he remembered the Prime Minister's recent visit with great pleasure and that he hoped things were going well for him at home.

Prime Minister Manley replied that he was doing well; "not too badly." (Ø)

The President said, "That's good." The President then said he was calling on the OAS matter in Panama, a subject that he had not discussed with the Prime Minister before. The September 1 deadline established by the Panamanian Constitution for the transfer of power was approaching. The Prime Minister knew our position--we would like very much to see the transfer of power take place and by that we mean Noriega leaving power by September 1. The President asserted that the entire hemisphere is being challenged by this man, who is trying to thwart the will of the people. The election result was clear but Noriega is holding up the election process to ridicule. The President said he had tried to stay within the framework of multilateral diplomacy. The United States, he said, is often viewed as a military power with too much muscle. But we have stayed with the OAS. The President said there was agreement in the OAS about the departure of Noriega by September 1. There was also the idea of forming a transition government, leading to new elections, even though the previous election was certifiably true. If that would take place, we would move rapidly about the business of helping Panama. (Ø)

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2000-0429-F
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The President said he hoped to enlist the Prime Minister's support to make it clear at the OAS meeting tomorrow that if Noriega has not agreed to leave power by September 1, or shortly thereafter, then he is the one responsible for the lack of a solution. We would like to see sanctions. Noriega should not be permitted to frustrate the will of the Panamanian people. The President said he was calling to encourage the Prime Minister's support, if possible, adding that he recognized that the Prime Minister may look at it one way and we another, in terms of the size of our countries. The President said that the Prime Minister himself had been through a free election process which everyone supported and recognized as totally free. If the Prime Minister could be supportive at the OAS meeting tomorrow, it would be helpful; that was the purpose of the call. (Ø)

Prime Minister Manley replied, "Thank you, Mr. President." Then he said, "Can you spare a moment?" He said he did not know whether the President was aware, but the Jamaican Government had taken a very very strong position regarding Noriega. The Prime Minister said he had personally mobilized the CARICOM group to denounce the stealing of the election, that he had been a leader at the Socialist International meeting in Stockholm, and personally had been very active. So far as September 1 is concerned, the Jamaican Ambassador in Washington, Keith Johnson, on the Prime Minister's instructions, is trying to get the CARICOM group at the very least to withdraw diplomatic recognition from Panama if Noriega is not out by September 1 and arrangements made for an election. We have the same perspective, he asserted, not a different view. The thing that is sacred is democracy -- "non-negotiable in my mind." We're taking a strong view, he declared. He then asked the President to tell him exactly the position the United States wished to take, saying, "I would like to support you." (Ø)

The President replied that it was the position that the Prime Minister had just articulated. We would like to say at this meeting that it's time to go; September 1 is approaching. If Noriega does not go and if there is not a subsequent election, then those countries that value democracy, like Jamaica, will be inclined to do what the Prime Minister just said and break relations and pull back further from Panama. The President said, "You're way ahead of us. That position is exactly what we'd like to see come out of the meeting tomorrow." (Ø)

Prime Minister Manley responded, "We are of like mind." He said that he had been talking about it yesterday while getting the Jamaican team ready. The Prime Minister said he had spoken to his Foreign Minister to tell him that his own feeling was that if we cannot get our CARICOM partners to go that far, he was prepared to have Jamaica go that far. We need to make a statement about it, he said. (Ø)

The President said that such a move, coming from Jamaica, has much more significance than if it were to originate with the United States. The President said he remembered earlier remarks by the Prime Minister where he felt we were right in alignment. This statement goes further. The President said he was going to make a couple of other calls, including to Carlos Andres Perez, who both the President and the Prime Minister respected. If we can get 3 or 4 strong people together like yourself, the President said, hopefully we might be able to send a signal to Panama that the man must leave. (S)

Prime Minister Manley observed that it would be good if the President could enlist Carlos Andres Perez since he was a very old personal friend and had worked closely with him. The Prime Minister asked the President to tell President Perez that this is the way he is thinking and that he really would be very pleased if President Perez could think in that direction himself. (S)

The President said that if that is agreeable to the Prime Minister, he would tell President Perez that, adding that he thought it would make a difference. If that's agreeable, the President said, I will tell him that the United States and Jamaica are totally in accord and hope that he will feel inclined to be with us also. (S)

Prime Minister Manley said that the voice of President Perez carries immense weight in Latin America, adding that his own voice doesn't carry such weight, except in the Caribbean. If he came along with us in that point of view, it would be tremendous, he declared. "We have to get this nasty little man out." (S)

The President said that he would talk to President Perez and send a telegram out after that phone call if the Prime Minister was interested. (S)

Prime Minister Manley said he would be most interested if the President would do that, adding, "I hope we get the brute out."

The President said we'll see what we can do and he thanked the Prime Minister for accepting the phone call. (S)

The Prime Minister said, "My pleasure, sir." (U)

The President and Prime Minister then exchanged goodbyes and the phone call was concluded. (U)