

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Helmut Kohl,
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal
Republic of Germany
Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse
Notetaker: R. Rand Beers

DATE, TIME September 5, 1989, 11:15 - 11:25 a.m.
EST AND PLACE: Washington, DC - Bonn, FRG

The President telephone Chancellor Helmut concerning Colombia.
(U)

The President: Hello. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Hello. How are you? (U)

The President: Well, I am fine. I hope you had as good a
vacation as I did. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes, thank you. I think I enjoyed my vacation
more than you because you have all the journalists around you.
(U)

President Bush asked about Chancellor Kohl's health and hoped
that everything was okay. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Well it is not traumatic. It is a necessary
operation. Very painful. Not dangerous. Nothing serious. Such
things always come at a bad time. I am having budget
negotiations in the Bundestag and a party Congress all in eight
days. I have to act very seriously, to put my foot down at the
party Congress. The operation is scheduled next week. Thank you
very much for your support. I acknowledge your friendship.
Apart from that, everything is fine. We have a gigantic problem
with the German refugees in Hungary. I expect Hungarians to
allow them to leave country soon. I don't know how many are
there. Maybe 10 or 20 thousand, maybe more. Meanwhile I am
taking necessary precautions. Hungary has been extremely
helpful. I will try to call you when I leave the clinic because
the situation in Hungary is very difficult. Perhaps together
then we can see what we can do. To put it in a nutshell, I am
fine. (f)

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Declassify on: OADR

The President: Helmut, I had one matter I wanted to talk to you about. That is Colombia. I have talked to Barco several times, and we are going to give him all the support we can. The \$65 million in emergency military aid was the first step, and we will announce tonight a \$260 million program for Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia for next year and a \$2 billion program over the next five years. When Mulroney came up to visit with his family in Maine, he suggested the G-7 get together to do more if possible in a concerted way to help this courageous president in Colombia. (P)

Chancellor Kohl wanted to know if this was action against the drug consortium? (P)

The President: Yes. Then what Brian and I talked about was, if you agreed, we thought you would be the ideal person to talk to Mitterrand. If he liked the idea, he could propose it as the Chairman of the G-7. It would be nice if we could get help to Barco against those thugs down there. (P)

Chancellor Kohl: I am more than willing to see what I can do. I consider it very important to act against the drug traffickers. The suffering they bring is increasing. It would be very useful if you could send me a short note about the G-7 proposal. Then I will talk to Mitterrand. The best thing would be for Mitterrand to suggest the proposal. Since the days of the Court of Napoleon, the French have liked to have ideas originate in Paris. (P)

The President: Two matters of very great international importance. First, we enjoyed the wurst you gave us. We had it in Maine with selected guests, we shared it with them. And secondly, the fishing rod that you gave me, I loaned it to Cheney, Secretary Cheney, who christened it out west with Secretary Baker. I understand that he caught a lot of fish with it. I did not get to fly fish myself, but will do so later. But they caught some great fish. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Well, send my regards to Secretary Cheney. I will be sending him a second fishing rod and some more wurst to you. I am afraid the Senate may be having a problem with imports though. (U)

The President: We won't tell the Senate. We will invite them to share it. Good luck Helmut and we will get the note to you. (P)

Chancellor Kohl: Good. And I will call you as soon as I am out of my operation. Give my regards to Barbara. (U)

The President: Give my regards to Lori. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good bye. (U)

The President: Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --