

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain
Notetaker: R. Rand Beers

DATE, TIME September 5, 1989, 1:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
AND PLACE: White House Situation Room

The President telephoned Prime Minister Thatcher concerning the drug crisis. (Ø)

The President greeted PM Thatcher, "Margaret?" (Ø)

PM Thatcher replied, "Hello, George, how are you? You have an official speech tonight, don't you?" (Ø)

The President responded, "I'm just fine. I feel like a Spring colt, I'm just back from vacation. Yes, I was calling you on that subject (speech), if you have a minute. I got your letter on assistance to Poland and I'm very pleased to have your views. But I am calling on Colombia. The traffickers there have sought to undermine the whole social fabric of that nation. The attack on the El Espectador over the weekend is one example. Barco is facing a terrible situation. I appreciated your letter on Colombia telling me of your support. I have talked to Barco several times. I admire the position Barco is taking. We intend to give all the support we possibly can." (Ø)

PM Thatcher said, "I think your own action was exactly right." (Ø)

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The President continued, "This \$65 million in emergency military aid offered two weeks ago was but a first step. Tonight I will announce a \$260 million program for Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia for next year and a \$2 billion program over the next five years. Remember the G-7 conference at the Paris Summit in which we talked about combined efforts to help Colombia? One approach would be for the rest of the G-7 to provide a counternarcotics assistance package to Colombia. Just last week I was talking to Brian Mulroney about perhaps getting Mitterrand, as host, to coordinate a G-7 initiative. Mulroney liked the idea. In fact, he should have credit for this idea about involving the G-7. I talked to Helmut Kohl a few minutes ago about the idea of getting Mitterrand, as he remains the host of the G-7 from the last summit and, as Chairman, I thought it a good idea to get him to coordinate with everyone. We have already charted our own course. It would be a good signal if members of the G-7 could be supportive of Barco." (Ø)

PM Thatcher agreed saying, "I have no difficulty with that at all. Mitterrand was here at Chequers last Friday. I reminded him that he was still Chairman of the G-7 and of PM Gonzales' special experience in dealing with terrorism. I have no difficulty with your proposal, George. Barco needs all the help he can get from the UN, the G-7, Europe. We need to bring more pressure on the drug traffickers." (Ø)

The President volunteered, "That is, if Mitterrand picks up the ball. We are going to go tonight with a challenge on the domestic front, and there will be an international component in the speech." (Ø)

PM Thatcher said, "Very good, there is a UN role as well. Also, we are having a conference on demand here next year." (Ø)

The President noted, "Yes, I liked your idea about the UN Resolution." (Ø)

PM Thatcher - "Thank you, and congratulations for what you are doing. We need to do everything we can do to support Barco." (Ø)

The President - "Did you see where Barco's 30-year-old Justice Minister and children were threatened? Barco said she told him she would not resign. It is tough when your kid is threatened." (Ø)

PM Thatcher - "One other thing, on my return from Japan I wanted to let you know I will be passing through the U.S.S.R. on 23 September on my way back from the IDU Conference and will talk to Gorbachev." (Ø)

The President asked if he could impose on the Prime Minister to say a personal word on "our" behalf. "I think we are in fair shape and are going to move forward. If I could impose on you, I thought that I would like very much to know how he feels. Let me think about that." (Ø)

PM Thatcher said she was glad to pass on any personal message. (Ø)

The President added, "Anything you can share with us after would be great." (Ø)

PM Thatcher, "I think your Vice President is coming to Japan." (Ø)

The President, "Yes, he'll be there. He said today that he would be meeting you there. If you could spare time to talk to him it would be great. He has been very helpful -- good speech on Latin America -- well received in our country." (Ø)

PM Thatcher, "Mr. Bennett is doing good things, I gather." (Ø)

The President said, "I think so. It's a new position, and it's tough. There is no real authority to follow except what comes from the White House. He is working well with our Cabinet people for the first time at a successful coordinated international effort. We will wait and see after the speech tonight -- 9:00 PM EDT." (Ø)

"It is lovely to talk to you and when are we going to see you?" (Ø)

PM Thatcher stated that she should be coming over in October or November for a UN environmental speech. (Ø)

The President, "Definitely available if Barbara and I could take you to Camp David." (Ø)

PM Thatcher thanked the President for his kindness. Because there is so much going on at the moment, she expressed hesitation in regard to her upcoming plans. (Ø)

The President let her know that he will be waiting to know what her plans will be and said he would like to do it in as informal a way as possible and that he would like to talk about Poland, the G-7, China, and Hong Kong. (Ø)

PM Thatcher enthusiastically said, "Let's do it. The more informal the better. Thank you. Give my love to Barbara." (Ø)

The President closed, "Goodbye." (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --