

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

October 12, 1989

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR G. PHILIP HUGHES

FROM: BARRY F. LOWENKRON *BL*

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the Department of State transmitting the Tab A Memorandum of Telephone Conversation.

Concurrence by: *AAB* Adrian A. Basora (Acting)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Tab A Memorandum of Telephone Conversation be filed for the record.

Approve *APB* Disapprove _____

That you sign the memo at Tab I transmitting the Memorandum of Telephone Conversation at Tab A.

Attachment

- Tab I Hughes Memorandum to Roy
- Tab A Memorandum of Telephone Conversation

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Mulroney
Notetaker: Barry Lowenkron, NSC

DATE, TIME October 3, 1989, 9:36 - 9:45 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: "Brian, I'm calling to discuss two issues with you. The first involves President Salinas' visit to Washington. I was impressed with him, and, in one of our conversations, floated the idea of an informal get-together between the three of us. I wanted to sound you out on the idea, and did not want to give the impression of pushing Canada into some sort of North American trading block. I think the idea would be well-received in the US as an example of not neglecting our neighbors to the north and south. To my surprise, Salinas accepted. There's no time-frame, but I'll probably be visiting Monterrey next year."
(Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "I'm personally attracted to the idea of such a meeting. I recall that several years ago Secretary of State George Shultz had suggested a meeting among the three foreign ministers at Stanford, but that the Mexicans had backed out of it."
(Ø)

The President: "General Scowcroft recalled that episode, and so was also surprised with Salinas' acceptance. I raised it over an informal supper at Camp David and Salinas jumped at it like a trout out of water."
(Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "Instinctively and personally I favor such a meeting. Canada is guilty of neglecting its southern neighbors, instead focusing all of its attention on Europe and the Pacific."
(Ø)

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The President: "As I see it, a meeting among the three of us should not be based on trade issues, or on ganging up on Salinas. I'm also sensitive to the trade issue in Canada, and how it nearly cost you your job." (Ø)

The President: "Brian, the second thing I want to mention is East-West relations. We had good meetings with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. I saw him here in Washington, and I want you to know that I'm encouraged about the future. I understand you'll be going to Moscow later this year." (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "That's correct George. I'll be there the third week of November." (Ø)

The President: "Well, I'd love to chat with you some time before you go. We're quite optimistic about the trends in the relationship. Jim Baker found Shevardnadze quite accommodating. We covered a lot of issues. If you want, why not call me a week before you go. I could give you a message to pass along to Gorbachev so you could tell him, 'the President asked me to convey to you...' I know the Soviets value their ties with Canada, especially given the Yakovlev connection." (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "I appreciate the offer. At times it's easier for Canada to preach for a common position than for the United States. At the same time I want you to know that I'm pleased with Jim Baker's work and wouldn't want to interfere at all. I'm also delighted that you are encouraged about the future of our relations with the Soviets." (Ø)

The President: "Well, I'm strongly in favor of your trip. If you'd like maybe we can send Bob Gates or Brent Scowcroft up to Ottawa to give you a briefing on where we see things going in the Soviet Union before you leave." (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "That would be most helpful. I'm also available to carry any message from you to Gorbachev, such as, 'by the way, I've recently talked to President Bush and...'" (Ø)

The President: "Super. I'll mention it to Brent and to Bob Gates." (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "George, Mila and I saw you and Barbara on a tour White House the other night, and I now understand why you have a 70% approval rating." (U)

The President: "Brian, I want you to know that the picture we displayed during the tour wasn't just for the television cameras. I value our close friendship. We loved having you at Kennebunkport. The only problem I see on the horizon between us is my sense that the Blue Jays aren't going to make it. The Oakland club is pretty strong." (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "Well we'll see. I hope to see you at the World Series in Canada." (U)

The President: "Okay. We'll stay in touch. My best to Mila." (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: "And my best to Barbara. Take care." (U)