

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~DECLASSIFIED IN PART  
E.O. 12958, As Amended, Sec. 3.5(b)  
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997  
By JCP NARA, Date 5/20/99  
CASE# 98-0194-F~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Presentation of Credentials by  
Christos Zacharakis, Ambassador  
of Greece (U)

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.  
The President  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
Curtis W. Kamman, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
of State for European and Canadian Affairs  
Robert L. Hutchings, Director for European  
Political Affairs, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2011-1649-MR  
JL 9/24/13

Greece  
Christos Zacharakis, Ambassador

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: October 24, 1989, 3:00 - 3:05pm  
The White House

Following a reception in the State Dining Room, the President received the credentials of Ambassador Zacharakis in the Red Room. (U)

The President: How long have you been here? (U)

Ambassador Zacharakis: We have been here a month now. (U)

The President: There are important changes underway in Greece. (U)

Ambassador Zacharakis: Yes, in two weeks we will have our elections. (U)

The President: What are the polls saying? (U)

Ambassador Zacharakis: Our polls are not very reliable. People do not always say what they really think. At the moment, the polls are not much different than in June. If that proves true, it will be difficult to form a new government and difficult to take the steps that are needed in important areas. (U)

The President: We want to see relations improve and get stronger. (U)

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Ambassador Zacharakis: I will do my best in my new capacity and also in my continuing capacity as negotiator at our base talks. We hope to conclude the talks, which now await only the political decisions. (U)

The President: On Cyprus, I confess that we are feeling some frustration. We would like to help, but it is hard to know what more can be done beyond supporting the efforts of the UN Secretary General. (ϕ)

Ambassador Zacharakis: Let me say very respectfully that your intervention there would greatly improve U.S.-Greek relations. (ϕ)

The President: Is there a feeling among the people of Greece that we are siding with Turkey? (ϕ)

Ambassador Zacharakis: Indirectly, that is the case. We feel that Turkey is the aggressor and occupier. The fact that this is allowed to continue is interpreted as supporting the Turkish side. (ϕ)

The President: I can see that. We will continue to try to help. I like the new President of Cyprus, who seems to be a serious man. There are also some indications that Turkey is ready to move, but we do feel some frustration. (ϕ)

Ambassador Zacharakis: I lived in Cyprus for 11 years, from November 1974, just after the invasion, until January 1986. I also feel the frustration. (ϕ)

The President: Mr. Ambassador, best wishes in your new assignment. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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