

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Venezuelan
President Carlos Andres Perez (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez
Notetaker: William T. Pryce

DATE, TIME November 1, 1989, 8:30 - 8:45 a.m., EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned President Perez as a follow up to their meeting in San Jose.

The President: Hello, Mr. President. It's a pleasure to hear you. (U)

President Perez: It's a pleasure to hear you. (U)

The President: How are you? (U)

President Perez: Fine. I was delighted with our conversations in San Jose. (U)

The President: I was too. Are you calling me or am I calling you, because I intended to call you this morning. (P)

President Perez: You were calling, but I thought it would be good to talk over the situation. (P)

The President: The first item I wanted to talk about was concerning our very private conversation in San Jose. I have decided that the correct person on our side should be my National Security Adviser and close confidant, General Scowcroft, himself. (P)

The President: Secondly, if it could be worked out, I feel it would be useful for your contact to come here almost immediately if that is possible because there is some information I want to be sure you have. If she could come here within the next 48 hours or so, the General would amplify and perhaps have one or

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two of my other top intelligence people meet with her. My problem with doing it the other way is we are now in the midst of some crash preparations for the Gorbachev meeting, and I prefer that General Scowcroft not leave here at this time, and I think it is important that we share the information now. What is your thinking on that? (S)

Telephone connection is broken.

President Perez: My problem is that the person I mentioned to you is not available right now. She is in Guatemala. I will see if she can leave there this afternoon or at the latest tomorrow morning. (S)

The President: That is great! (U)

President Perez: Okay. (U)

The President: May I raise one other subject? It relates to the announcement by Ortega where he is suspending the cease-fire. What we think would be good is if the parties to the deal were to denounce the Ortega statement. I don't want to do anything which would help the Sandinistas cancel the elections. We do not want to play into Ortega's hands. I would welcome your advice because you have the respect of the other presidents. Any advice you could pass on to use would be welcome. (S)

President Perez: Thank you Mr. President. I am calling the other presidents to try to get them to help me convince Ortega not to cancel the cease-fire. It would also help if you could see that things don't get worse because there are a lot of reports that the Contras are reentering Nicaragua from Honduras. (S)

The President: Ortega is saying that the Contras are taking the offensive. Our information is that there has been skirmishing on both sides, but there are more deaths on the Contras' side than on the Sandinistas' side and that the Contras are not taking the initiative. I hear your message though. I think that is why you can be so helpful. I think that what Ortega would like is for us to take some overt action so he could cancel the elections. I think the immediate attention of the other presidents would be extremely helpful. (S)

President Perez: You are exactly right, Mr. President. What you say is exactly what we should do. We should not give him any excuse. I think we have made a lot of progress so far and I think the situation of UNO is good and we need to protect it. In San Jose I talked quite a bit with Violeta Chamarro, Endara and Ford and they all agree that the situation is good now and we should be careful not to give the Sandinistas any pretext. (S)

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The President: That is right and I know that she (Chamarro) feels that way and we will be very careful. (Ø)

President Perez: That's marvelous, Mr. President, and I will get back to you on the talks we will be having with the other presidents. (Ø)

The President: That would be very helpful. (Ø)

President Perez: And also don't forget the conversation we had about our problem - banks being very tough with us. (Ø)

The President: I relayed that to Secretary Brady. The banks should not step back from what they have already agreed to. (Ø)

President Perez: I agree with that. (U)

The President: I would like diplomatic credit from you for having talked to that beautiful Costa Rican protocol lady to get a change of seats so that we could talk together. I count on you to recognize my diplomatic ability and that I accomplished the mission magnificently. (Ø)

President Perez: There is no doubt about it and I hope that all your endeavors are as successful. (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --

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