

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Call to Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson of Iceland

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Steingrimur Hermannsson, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Robert L. Hutchings

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: November 27, 1989, 4:16 - 4:20 p.m. EST
The Oval Office

The President initiated the call.

The President: How are you?

Prime Minister Hermannsson: Fine. It has been a busy period.

The President: I am calling to touch base before my meeting in Malta. I am calling NATO friends to say there will be no deals behind the backs of our allies. It will be an open agenda: he can raise any ideas, and I will raise any. I wanted to ask you for advice. On December 4 I will be going to Brussels at the invitation of Manfred Woerner. I hope to see you there.

Prime Minister Hermannsson: It is a good idea. I strongly support this meeting. I will be in Brussels and look forward to hearing your report. I have no specific advice. You are on the right track.

The President: I think so too. There is some criticism here that I am not responding to the enormous changes in Eastern Europe, but I think things are going well. There is no need for rhetoric. Gorbachev has problems enough at home. We will discuss arms control in broad terms, but this is not the place for deals on CFE or START.

Prime Minister Hermannsson: I agree. Things are very promising. Gorbachev has great problems--more than appear on the surface. The Western countries should help, but not interfere. I am just back from a meeting between EFTA and the EB. We agreed to help the East European countries. Iceland will participate in a small way in the fund for Poland.

The President: Good. I look forward to seeing you in Brussels on Monday.

Prime Minister Hermannsson: Thank you. I wish you the best of luck.

The President: Do you have many fish this summer?

Prime Minister Hermannsson: If you come, I can guarantee you will catch some.

-- End of Conversation --