

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMCON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Pope John Paul II
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Pope John Paul II
Notetaker: Stephanie Sullivan

DATE, TIME January 4, 1990, 10:23 - 10:27 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: Good afternoon, sir. May I wish you a happy new year? (U)

Pope John Paul II: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: I was calling to express my appreciation to you and to your able diplomats in Panama and the Vatican for your total cooperation on the Noriega matter. I am very grateful to you and your people for the way the matter was handled and resolved. (U)

Pope John Paul II: We tried to do the best, mindful also of the humanitarian aspects. (U)

The President: Thank you. You did resolve it that way. The fact that he left of his own free will was good. I guarantee you that he will receive a fair trial, knowing your humanitarian concerns. He will be treated as he should be under American laws. There will be no tormenting of the man. He will be treated as innocent until proven guilty. (U)

Pope John Paul II: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: Thank you. There were times I was afraid at lower levels we might be getting crosswise with the Vatican. Your people handled it in a professional and caring way. You have my profound thanks for being so professional. (Ø)

Pope John Paul II: Thank you. The same to you, Mr. President. A very happy new year. (U)

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The President: Same to you. I hope our paths will cross this new year. (U)

Pope John Paul II: There are many new situations. (U)

The President: Yes, so many new situations. I hope to be helpful to democracy in Poland and to developments in Panama. (U)

Pope John Paul II: That is also my suggestion and desire. For you and your big country, the United States, best wishes for the new year. (U)

The President: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much. We appreciate it. We'll be in touch. Goodby. (U)

Pope John Paul II: Goodby. (U)