

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMCON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Adrian Basora, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: January 4, 1990, 9:50 - 9:59 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
2000-0429-F
Z 8/21/09

The President: Brian! (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: How are you? I'm here near your
mother. (U)

The President: I was really moved by your visit to my mother.
On Panama, you were magnificent. I know that a number of people
in Parliament jumped on you for your support of what we were
doing. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: As Prime Minister it was my job to
decide the Canadian government's reaction, and I decided based on
what I believed was right. What happened last night was a
further vindication of your actions. (Ø)

The President: It was a superb military operation, but I had to
overcome my instinct not to intervene in Latin America. What
made me decide was Noriega's victimization of U.S. military
personnel. So I had to act. I am very sad of course about the
human cost; as you know I just visited some of our injured boys
when I was in Texas. But I don't want to cry on your shoulder, I
just want to wish you the great success I know you will have in
1990. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: You yourself brought 1989 to a very
successful conclusion, and now 1990 is off to a very fine start.
Now, two weeks after your action in Panama, there are proven
beneficial results. (Ø)

The President: I know that I will now have a lot of personal
diplomacy to do with Latin American leaders, and I am planning to
do this. Regarding Noriega, we will ensure that he has a fair
trial. The indictments against him do not call for the death
penalty, and there were 10,000 people in the streets of Panama
calling for his hide. This may have helped persuade him to turn
himself over. Brian, I want to thank you again for your support.
(Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I think you are right about the need for diplomatic efforts in Latin America. I was glad to be able to help, and please give our love to Barbara. (Ø)

The President: The same to Mila and the kids from us. (U)