

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

**MEMCON**

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Vaclav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.  
The President  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Lisa Valyiova, Interpreter

Czechoslovakia  
Vaclav Havel, President  
Michael Zantovsky, Presidential Press Spokesman  
Alexandra Brabcova, Interpreter

DATE, TIME February 20, 1990, 11:00 - 11:15 am  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President and President Havel met briefly in the Oval office at 11:00. (U)

President Havel: I have some private business matters to discuss. Let me tell you why I have come. I want to explain what has happened in Czechoslovakia and reestablish a friendly relationship. (U)

The President: We are delighted you are here. (U)

President Havel: I'm in a special position. I am inexperienced in the job, but have many things to do which normally I wouldn't. I have two categories of things to discuss. (Presents his book in English.) I will mention general issues tomorrow at the Congress, so I won't take much time on them. I will mention the historic developments in our area and their consequences, political and philosophical. Philosophically, I will stress the very idea of a future Europe not divided by a Wall, and the irreversibility of the movement toward democracy. I will also speak in a philosophical tone about what's going on in the world today. Czechoslovakia would like a Jackson-Vanik waiver and completion of a trade agreement. We would also appreciate MFN on a permanent basis. But I have not come to ask for money. (U)

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The President: You have a special history of democracy which sets you apart. (U)

President Havel: The most important thing is know-how. We need advice on elections, the economy, the environment and education. We are interested in obtaining intellectual assistance. In material cooperation such as telecommunications, Secretary Baker promised help, which we appreciate. For political stability, we would like to buy two TV channels -- in addition to the two we have now. There are some stations there in sort of a vacuum. Maybe they could be sold to us. We like the idea of an investment bank. We have no multinational institutions in Prague, which is very central, and we would like some. Radio Free Europe will still have an important role to play. I hope you will continue your support. The last bilateral point: Secretary Baker expressed concern over our intelligence facilities. Our Minister of Interior will offer an agreement on cooperation. He can come here next month. We will seek the same kind of agreement as with the Soviet Union. (S)

The President: That sounds good. Certainly we will discuss it. (U)

President Havel: I worry I am taking too much time. (U)

The President: No. Don't worry about the people in the other room. (U)

President Havel: I have no secrets from my Government. I don't mind going into the other room. (U)

The President: Before you leave Washington, if something comes up which you wish to discuss, get in touch with Brent Scowcroft and we will have another talk. (U)

President Havel: I would appreciate that. (U)

The President: I will have Brent Scowcroft set up some time for us tomorrow. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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