

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMCON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister
Robert Hawke of Australia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Robert Hawke, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Douglas Paal

DATE, TIME: March 29, 1990, 5:58 p.m. - 6:03 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned the Prime Minister to congratulate him on his victory in the Australian federal election. (U)

The President: Bob, congratulations. I want to check in with you on the election. I would not say it was a landslide. (U)

PM Hawke: G'day, George. Actually we will end up with a very comfortable majority. We are winning all the doubtful seats. (U)

The President: Well, I heard it was a real close squeaker. The reporting had it close, according to the analysts. (U)

PM Hawke: It will be 78 to 69. The analysts often get it wrong. (U)

The President: I wish you good luck. I hope we will be able to see each other soon. (U)

PM Hawke: Thanks, George. I would like to renew our invitation for you to go to Australia for a visit. (U)

The President: I would love to do it. You know it is so darn complicated. You can see all this stuff going on. I just wanted to offer my congratulations. Will you have a chance to get some rest? (U)

PM Hawke: I am getting my ministries together, then I will take some time. I will be going to Gallipoli on ANZAC Day. It is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the 1915 landing. Some of the veterans going along are in their nineties, their last chance. It should be very poignant. (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

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

The President: Very emotional. (U)

PM Hawke: George, like you, I have been watching the Soviets and the Baltics. It is walking a tight rope. We want to give support to Gorbachev and also to the aspirations of the Lithuanian people. It is a fine line. You are doing a good job.
(Ø)

The President: You are kind, and you are absolutely right. Ted Kennedy was just in to see me and said Gorbachev is a little annoyed with the posture we are in and with the Lithuanians. I am a little heartened that the last few days have been less tense. You are nice to mention that. We have a lot at stake in him and lots at stake in self-determination for the Lithuanians.
(Ø)

PM Hawke: Yes, there are so many sinister forces arrayed against him on both sides. He needs all our support now. (Ø)

The President: I would hate to see his military scrunch him down. No one could do anything. It is very confrontational. Bob, if I ever see something coming up where we can work together, I will give you a call. Bar sends her love. Good-by.
(Ø)

PM Hawke: Good-by. (U)

-- End of Conversation --