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18. Memcon	Re: Meeting with Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada (3 pp.)	4/11/90	(b)(1)	S

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Scowcroft, Brent, Files
Series: Presidential Correspondence
Subseries: Presidential Memcons
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Presidential Meetings - Memorandum of Conversations 2/22/90 - 4/11/90

Document Partially Declassified
(Copy of Document Follows)
 By AL (NLGB) on 10/16/10

Date Closed: 1/26/2009	OA/ID Number: 91107-008
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0275-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #: 2000-0429-F(169)	MR Case #:
AR Disposition: Released in Part	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date: 8/21/2009	MR Disposition Date:

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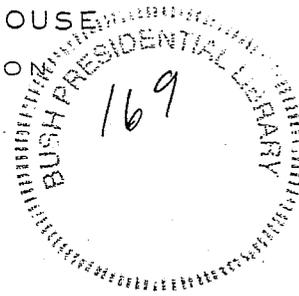
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

**MEMCON**

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting With Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister
Stanley Hartt, Chief of Staff

DATE, TIME April 11, 1990
AND PLACE: Sky Dome, Toronto, Canada

The meeting opened with a brief discussion of Prime Minister Mulroney's problems surrounding the Meech Lake Accord. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: The Soviets might compare Lithuania and Quebec. (S)

The President: They also have mentioned our Civil War. If the press tries to divide us after this meeting, it will probably be on the environment. I will say that we are in the midst of a basic revision of the Clean Air Act and until we know what our law is, we can't negotiate. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I will say that it took you to get things moving on environment in the U.S. However, I would like to get confirmed that there will be discussions going soon. So that when you have a law, we could be nearer to having something to sign. On CNN here, there was discussion that nothing would come of this meeting because no one cares about Canadian views. If you could say you just didn't come up here for a Canadian ball game, that would help. (S)

I have an idea for your meeting with Mitterrand. I just came back from the Caribbean. Per capita income down there is pretty good. This is true everywhere except Haiti which has just gone to hell. Here's where the three of us could do something together. If we could guarantee free elections and get things off the ground there, Cuba would be completely isolated. I haven't talked to Mitterrand about it, but we could do it for peanuts. (S)

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The President: This would be good politics for us. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I want to get you together with Mitterrand. (S)

The President: We need it. I am worried about France. It's either Mitterrand himself or the Foreign Ministry, I don't know which. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: [REDACTED] They are just different. That is why Haiti might give him a chance to cooperate with us close to home. Kohl goes off the reservation when Mitterrand's nose is out of joint. (S) (b)(1)

The President: Kohl is a little hurt on this. He says "how long must we do penance." France is worried about Germany, as is Maggie Thatcher. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Their EC friendship is coming untucked. The EC wasn't envisioned with a united Germany in mind. Kohl did an end-run with his speed on unification. I think the G-7 Houston Summit will see the most changed Europe ever. (S)

The President: People ask me who is the enemy. Could it be instability, unpredictability? (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I'll be unfashionable and say it is still the Soviet Union. I'm less and less confident that Gorbachev will stay in control of things. (S)

The President: We got a glimpse of this at the Ministerial with Shevardnadze. The military was throwing its weight around. With the present regime, there cannot be a real reversal, but if they got thrown out, then things could change. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Last summer, I remember Mitterrand saying the enemy in the Soviet Union was the nationalities problem. Eventually, Gorbachev will have to use massive force to put them down, and then he will lose his moral authority at home and in the West. (S)

The President: Lithuania is a delicate problem for us. In the Soviet Union, however, the Supreme Soviet voted about 1300 to 90 against them. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Your approach is just right. (S)

The President: It is going fairly well, but as with China, people say I don't give a damn about human rights. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: The big game hunter should not be diverted by rabbit tracks, but what could you do about Lithuania? (S)

The President: The critics say we should impose sanctions. I don't think it will work. (S)

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Prime Minister Mulroney: I misread Li Peng, but you have to hang in there. (S)

The President: We are coming to a crunch on MFN. They (the Chinese) have to give, if we are to go forward on MFN. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: What do they want you to do? (U)

The President: He who ties the knot... There are some signs of movement, but scanty. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Is there any value in Canada calling in the Chinese and telling them the U.S. has run out of strength?

(S)

The President: That would be great. With your closeness to me and to the Peoples Republic of China, it might be very useful.

(S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I will call the Chinese Ambassador in for breakfast. It will not be attributable to you. (S)

The President: They could break out Feng for example. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: We will take him, if they do. The American people need some dramatic gesture like that. (S)

The President: You're right. Feng might not be enough, but along with amnesty, that might do it. The hard-liners are scared. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: One other thing: Shevardnadze asked me if I know Castro. I said no, but obviously he was probing to see if I would get a message to Castro to lighten up. (S)

The President: There are no indications at all that we see in that direction. Our Catholics say there is some easing in the Church, but we think he is clamping down. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I just thought it was fascinating that Shevardnadze raised the subject with me. (S)

At this point, the one-on-one conversation ended and the larger group discussion began.

-- End of Conversation --

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