

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada (Ø)

Participants: The President
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME May 31, 1990, 9:00-9:13 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Good morning, Brian. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I'm sorry to interrupt, George, because I know Gorbachev is arriving shortly. (U)

The President: I'm here with John, the Vice President, Brent and Bob Gates. We're having a brief review before we see Gorbachev. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I neglected to mention when we spoke last night two points that I had raised with Gorbachev, probably because I'm so preoccupied with the domestic situation here. (Ø)

The President: I'll have Brent listen in. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I talked to Henry, Brent. (Ø)

The President: Did I misunderstand? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: No, I clarified it. Gorbachev misunderstood. (Ø)

On Cuba, I said to Gorbachev "you must understand that Cuba represents an unacceptable situation for George Bush. You continue to fund this little dictatorial regime with \$6 billion per year. You must understand this creates a problem for George Bush. You must also understand that Cuban-Americans play a big role in the Republican party. You have to understand that this is a fundamental issue for George Bush and Jim Baker". (Ø)

The President: That's very helpful, Brian. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I reminded Gorbachev he had said that your understanding of his problems on the German question would be a litmus test of the success of the summit. I said I

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assumed he was also talking about his readiness to support you on other questions such as U.S. policy in the Middle East. Gorbachev said he was. I said that I didn't know if there had been an American President in recent memory who was more even-handed on the Middle East than George Bush. I told him that anything he could do to help George Bush break new ground on the Middle East at the summit would help. Gorbachev said he was impressed by that. (S)

The President: Let me make an important point. The PLO attack today is a new level of futility. It was a stupid damn thing. Arafat has to denounce it. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: He's undermining your efforts and playing into Shamir's hands. (S)

The President: I appreciate the call and the way you've handled Gorbachev. The fascinating part was that Gorbachev felt the U.S. was leading a NATO-led conspiracy. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: He was intense. Just the two of us were in the office. I told him that if he thought a couple of us had produced the events in Germany, he was giving us more credit than we deserved, or that our own publics were giving us. I said that democracy had produced those events in Germany. I brought up Cuba again and said he had to understand. (S)

The President: Listen, Brian, I want you to know that when Mulroney calls, I listen. You suggested I take a look at Article II of the NATO Treaty and the words of Lester Pearson (President read aloud text of Article II). I think this is damn good language that could help convince Gorbachev not to see NATO as a threat. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: He appears to see NATO as an institution with long-term survivability. (S)

The President: Brian, we want to support you on EXPO 2000. On the bigger question, just call me if there is something I can do to help. Anything our side can do to strengthen your hand, we'll do. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I appreciate it. (U)

When the question of the Baltics came up in our press conference, I said the creation of Canada's union had been led by Quebec and that there could be no comparing Canada to the Baltics. I said we were moving on domestic constitutional reform. (S)

General Scowcroft: That was a great statement of yours. (S)

The President: What do you make of this military aide thing? (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I really don't know. He came to lunch without his military aide. (S)

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The President: I told my guys how beneficial your conversations with him were. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Raisa and Mila got along well. She is very influential with him, and there is clearly a lot of mutual respect there. She told Mila that, contrary to some previous visits, she was looking forward to Washington and to spending time with Barbara. There was a clear implication there that Mila didn't touch. Raisa is a key to his moods. (U)

The President: Barbara will treat her well and make sure she is comfortable with her. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I would suggest you get together with them casually, be informal and even digress from the program. (U)

The President: We'll do two things differently. First, Barbara will take Raisa upstairs after their coffee this morning. We've not done that before. Second, we'll have the Gorbachevs upstairs before the State dinner tonight. And, we'll also spend a day with them at Camp David. I think the mood we'll set should dispel any feelings of hostility. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: On the personal side, let me make a suggestion. You have that lovely daughter in Maine--this guy loves kids and grandchildren; it's genuine. You might bring her down with her kids to loosen things up. (U)

The President: Okay. Thanks so much. If you need a shoulder to cry on, let me know. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: We'll struggle through, George. (U)

The President: I just ache for your problems. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: We're proud of what you are doing. Hang in there. (U)

Good luck. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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