

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone conversation with President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela  
Interpreter: Lilian Nigaglioni  
Notetaker: Donald C. Johnson

DATE, TIME August 13, 1990, 9:59 - 10:19 a.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President telephoned President Perez to thank him for his statement about increasing oil supplies, review the Iraq crisis, express appreciation for support on the Haitian elections, and express concern about Nicaragua. (Ø)

The President: How are you, sir -- Mr. President? (U)

President Perez: It is a great pleasure to hear you. (U)

The President: I'm delighted to talk to you. I haven't called you for some time, and I want to thank you for your strong statement of support for stabilizing these damned world oil supplies. And Dan Quayle has filled me in in great detail on your positive approach to the crisis. (Ø)

I'm sure I don't need to brief you in detail about our approach, but we can't let Hussein's aggression stand. We can't let him get so much control over world oil that he drives other countries to their knees. (Ø)

I'm pleased that we have gotten a lot of international support. And I'm pleased that the Arab summit did what it did, agreeing to send military assistance to Saudi Arabia. But basically I called to thank you for your help, and ask you if you had anything you wanted to tell me. (Ø)

President Perez: I have some news for you. First, I'm sorry that you couldn't come to visit us in September, but I understand fully the reasons for postponement. (U)

The President: I really want to come visit. I don't want you to let me off the hook. So I want you to invite me. (U)

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President Perez: You have a standing invitation. (U)

The President: Thanks, my friend. (U)

President Perez: I told Vice President Quayle I was sending the Foreign Minister of Venezuela on a mission to the Middle East. His meeting yesterday with King Fahd was very positive. The result was that a meeting of OPEC oil ministers will be called immediately. This will include the legitimate representatives of Kuwait. If we can't convene this meeting, then all countries will be meeting to see whether we can raise production quotas.  
(Ø)

The President: That's very positive. (Ø)

President Perez: King Fahd's position is very firm and resolute. Our Foreign Minister is meeting with Rafsanjani in Iran today, then he will be flying to Algeria, to meet with their oil minister, as he is the head of OPEC right now. Then he will go to Nigeria, to try to unite African and Asian oil-producing countries' support. The objective is to prevent speculation, on one hand, and to assure the oil supply, on the other. (Ø)

The President: That's a very important diplomatic mission, and I'm delighted to know you've sent him. I'm anxious to know how he fares, how he makes out. (Ø)

President Perez: I'll keep you posted at all times, Mr. President. We're cooperating with the position taken by the United States, which we share one hundred percent. We need to find a way to solve the crisis. But we can't let Hussein get away with his folly. (Ø)

The President: Do you have time for one more question? (U)

President Perez: Of course. (U)

The President: Vice President Quayle gave me a briefing in detail on your conversations on Haiti. I want to thank you for the positive help in getting UN action to guarantee free elections in Haiti. Quayle said you'd been a major factor in getting Andean country help for Haiti's request. (Ø)

The question I have relates to our favorite subject -- or maybe I should say our unfavorable topic -- the situation in Nicaragua. I'm still worried about developments there. We worry that the Sandinistas are helping FMLN guerrillas and that they are resisting Mrs. Chamorro's efforts to reform the economy. (Ø)

I don't think we see eye to eye on some of this. I'm still worried about Humberto Ortega. Maybe you could either tell me

now or you could send me a private message. But I'd be interested to know what you think. (C)

President Perez: On Haiti, I feel relatively optimistic about the outcome there. Both visits -- Vice President Quayle's and mine -- were very positive. We won't stop our efforts. On oil, today I'm convening a ministerial meeting to consider what we can do. (C)

On Nicaragua, I'm very concerned about the development of the situation. I'm following the situation closely. I plan to send someone I trust to Nicaragua to sound out different sectors, and tell me what is going on. There are several factors -- one is the great amount of disparity among those who support Violeta. (C)

The President: I agree with that. I want to stay in close sync. I respect you, and you've been right on this. And as I told you, I'm concerned. (C)

President Perez: Thanks for your trust. I am also not satisfied with the conduct of the Sandinistas as an opposition. This responds to conflicts in the ranks of Sandinismo. But Humberto Ortega has not been a strong negative factor. We shouldn't personalize the conflict. The problem is very complex and we can't over-simplify it. We should remember that it wasn't productive to focus all attention on Noriega in Panama. (C)

The President: I appreciate your thoughts. You know the players better than I do. We would hate to see Dona Violeta fail. That's our bottom line -- we want to see her succeed. (C)

President Perez: We are in agreement that the risks are substantial, and we want to prevent things from being worse. We want to avoid failure of the Chamorro government. Your concern is justified. But there is no other course-- we need to follow events closely and shouldn't confuse over individuals. (C)

I'm sorry your trip to Maine has been complicated by difficult world events, but I want to wish you a good vacation. (U)

The President: Thank you. I go back to Washington for a few hours tomorrow. But I am getting some rest here. Barbara sends her respects and love, too. (U)

President Perez: Thank you, Mr. President, and my respects to your wife. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)