

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

**MEMCON**

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Brian Mulroney,  
Prime Minister of Canada

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney  
Notetaker: Adrian Basora, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME September 10, 1990 2:10 -2:18 p.m.  
PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Brian, how are you? I'm just checking in to tell you about the my meeting in Helsinki. I think our joint statement touched all the right bases. Gorbachev is worried about the use of force, as we all are, but we've agreed on all the right points. As far as food is concerned, we agreed that it had to be based on humanitarian criteria and that we would need to have mechanisms to ensure that it reaches the right people. Ozaal, Mubarak, and Fahd are very pleased with the message that our Helsinki meeting sent. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I was so impressed with the message that I saw conveyed when I watched your press conference on TV. You have been building an image of measured seriousness over the past 18 months and it came across at Helsinki. Do you have any private insights on Gorbachev's thinking? (S)

The President: Gorbachev thought that the sanctions were working. Fahd thought so too and he said something strange. He said that Saddam Hussein will have some difficult decisions to make in the next two weeks. Then he corrected himself. He said that Saddam Hussein was acting strangely of late. (S)

Gorbachev didn't have any other special insights. I feel that he will bring his advisors out. He was cooperative and in a good mood, but he seemed overwhelmed by his problems at home. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: The fact that you were able to do this kind of a meeting on such short notice shows that there is a new relationship. (S)

The President: On arms control, although we did not work on the details, we did agree to give the negotiations a push. (S)

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Prime Minister Mulroney: Helsinki was very impressive. It should have an impact on Saddam Hussein. (S)

The President: How are things at home? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: You are aware that we have decided to go forward with you on the Mexican trade agreement. (S)

The President: Do you feel that we should have a trilateral agreement? I thought that it was better if we negotiated our own bilateral agreement first and then came back to you. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I would be very grateful if we could be at the table from the start. We won't delay things or get in the way. I would appreciate your giving the Mexicans a push on this. I believe that Carla Hills and Jim Baker are in favor of this approach. If Canada were left out, we could get whipsawed domestically. We would have a political problem. (S)

The President: I may be behind the curve, but I thought that it was best for us to go for a bilateral agreement first. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I don't want to misquote anyone but it was my understanding that Baker and Hills were in agreement. I think that Crosbie talked to Hills. (S)

The President: If Jim Baker and Carla Hills agree, there is no problem. Let me look into it. (S)

-- End of Conversation --