

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada (U)

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

DATE, TIME: September 25, 1990, 6:02-6:10 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hey, Brian, how are you doing? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I'm struggling. (Ø)

The President: I am calling on the trade deal, the Free Trade Agreement. I know our people have been talking, but I wanted to get to you personally. Maybe I had not been clear enough, but I had made a commitment to Salinas for a bilateral agreement on a fast track. But I am sensitive to your interest in the agreement and I have told Congress that Canada wishes to participate actively. This would mean that our negotiators would talk over the next few months to see if there was a basis for a trilateral agreement. I realize that this may not be all you might want, but I hope that this gives you the cover that you need. (Ø)

There are two key points, however. The first is that, if we do go trilateral, we would stick to the same timetable that we already have in mind. The second is that, if our ministerial level consultations show that a trilateral agreement is not practical, then we would go ahead bilaterally. I wanted to get back to you on this. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I think, to use your term, that it gives me enough cover. I appreciate it. I know you are on a fast track for the negotiations, and I know that Jim Baker and others have been working on this in order to take account of the political problems that this could cause here. (Ø)

The President: I know. (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Is there anything new on the Gulf? (Ø)

The President: I've just had an important visit with Ozal. Ozal had said at the beginning that the sanctions would begin to have an effect in ten days, and now he says that they are in fact biting. He also says that Saddam Hussein is not ten feet tall and that he will begin feeling the sanctions increasingly. Meanwhile our troops continue to arrive. For the present, however, I do not plan any military action, assuming there is no provocation. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I sent you a note about your handling of the Gulf crisis. You may not have seen it yet. (Ø)

The President: No, darn it! (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I have also talked to our Parliament and praised your leadership in the Gulf. (Ø)

The President: Are you getting flak on this issue? I have read that you are. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Yes, but that comes with the job. (U)