

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prime Minister Andreotti of Italy (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (Notetaker)  
Sim Smiley, Interpreter

Giulio Andreotti, Prime Minister of Italy  
Umberto Vattani, Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister (Notetaker)  
Carla Lonergo, Interpreter

DATE, TIME November 13, 1990, 4:15-4:45 pm  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: One question on my mind is the Uruguay Round. We can discuss it here or with the main group. (S)

You raised Crotone. We are committed to building it, but the Congressional action was a clear set-back. We don't control the Congress, so it is a difficult situation. But if you and NATO stay together, we will try to get the funding. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: We are solid on the matter, but we would like to know the prospects for U.S. funding. It would be silly to spend the money on our side if the U.S. portion will not be approved. (S)

The President: Brent, what are the prospects? (U)

General Scowcroft: (gives an assessment of the prospects) (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: We can wait until next spring. (S)

The President: Maybe we can take soundings early in the new year. (S)

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Prime Minister Andreotti: All right. On the Gulf, the EC has put forward a good resolution, and it has opposed the idea of people going to Baghdad to try to win the release of hostages. Unfortunately, many Europeans are not abiding by this resolution. My press is after me on this issue. An attempt is being made to separate the U.S. hostages from the other hostages. I don't want to let that happen. (S)

The President: We are trying to keep our Congressmen from going to Baghdad. It is a cruel, inhuman policy that Saddam is pursuing. There is not the outrage here in the U.S. that I thought there would be. I am terribly worried about our Embassy in Kuwait. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Confidentially, do you think there is a chance to convince Saddam Hussein short of military action? (S)

The President: We are moving 150,000 additional troops to the region. I hope this will convince him that we are serious. A UN resolution would help, but I doubt we will get out short of the use of force. I believe he thinks he can out-wait us and divide the alliance. This country will back me if I say we have to use force. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: We should try to get from Saddam Hussein: withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government, release of the hostages, and a security system for the region. He can't be left with the -----  
----- (S)

The President: An important point. We are talking about -----  
----- (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: We should think about who can make an approach to him. He is very isolated. Maybe the President of Algeria could do it, but he should make it clear that the UN is steadfast. I don't believe in the possibility of an Arab solution. (S)

The President: I have high regard for Bendjedid. But it would only work if he goes just to explain our position and to require Saddam's compliance with the UN directives. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: However, this might give him a way out. (S)

The President: Another scheme would be to send the Presidents of some small Muslim countries to tell him that he is destroying the

Islamic countries. This is a Mulroney scheme. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: It is not just a problem of economic dislocation; it is also Arab prestige that he is destroying. (S)

The President: Yes, that's right. Do you know Saddam Hussein personally? (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, I do. I was there in 1978 to see if he might support chemical disarmament (?). His conception is wrong. (S)

The President: He is very brutal and unpredictable. I hope he understands that we are deadly serious. I want a peaceful solution. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: If ----- tell him that he should withdraw, free the hostages and agree to a security system, that may provide an opening. (S)

The President: But he wants one big pow-wow to resolve all Middle East problems. Shamir is a different -----.  
(S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: He has no intention of giving back the occupied territories. (S)

The President: That's right, but the Israelis are worried about Saddam Hussein. They are worried that he may bomb them as a way out of his dilemma in Kuwait. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: They are also worried about Asad and Syria. (S)

One more thing. It is important that we all say something to the Palestinians in order to stop the idea that we are abandoning them. (S)

The President: I agree, but the PLO is making it very difficult for us. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Perhaps we can discuss the Uruguay Round with the others. (S)

The President: All right, let's go. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: One more thing. That lady I talked to you about last time (Sylvia Baraldini). (S)

The President: The Attorney General will have an answer when he

visits Rome next month. I will tell him you raised the issue again. (S)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Before we were told that if a convention were signed between the U.S. and Italy, she could serve her sentence in Italy. It has been one year since the signing of the convention. (S)

The President: I told a group of Italian Americans that relations between our two countries have never been better and that I wanted to ensure that they stayed that way. Shall we go? (U)

-- End of Meeting --