

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone conversation with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
 Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico
 Notetaker: David A. Pacelli, NSC

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 31, 1990, 11:00 - 11:06 a.m. EST
 Camp David - Presidential Office, Mexico City

The President: Hello, my good friend Carlos. (U)

President Salinas: Hello, George, how are you? (U)

The President: I was just calling to wish you well for the New Year and to hope that all is going well with you. (U)

President Salinas: That is very kind of you, George, and I wish the same for you and Mrs. Bush. (U)

The President: We are all well and had a delightful holiday. We are still up at Camp David. It is getting pretty cold here now, but it is beautiful. Where are you right now? (U)

President Salinas: I returned yesterday to Mexico City to be ready for the beginning of the year. (U)

The President: I see. Well, we wish you well and we just loved our visit to Monterrey. We had a wonderful time on our trip to your beautiful country. Tell me, did you receive the photograph of me in my Mexican suit? Jeb was supposed to get it delivered to you. (U)

President Salinas: No, I haven't received it yet. (U)

The President: Well, I hope that it turns up. Some people were sensitive up here and did not want to see it released because I would get teased about it. But I am not worried about that. It is a picture of me in a Mexican outfit with black pants and a silver stripe running down the side; it's just wonderful. (U)

I just hope that we can continue the good work between our two countries that we had this year. And I appreciate your personal role in the good relations between our two countries. (U)

President Salinas: Thank you, you are very kind. I hope the situation on January 15 will come out alright. (S)

The President: I am still worried about that. There is not much progress to report. Saddam Hussein has not taken a constructive posture toward resolving this issue. There seems to be no recognition that there is a serious risk of war. Why, just the other day he accused me of being drunk and being like Judas Iscariot. He can't seem to figure it out too well the risks involved. He seems to be convinced that he can get out of this situation without ever making a concession. I must say, though, that he has to leave Kuwait. We cannot make a concession on this issue. He still thinks that we would not use force; that we would be in trouble if we did, and that we would agree to some compromise if we did not. But we can't do that. And we are still working hard to try to convince him. But I am sorry to say there is no evidence of that. (S)

President Salinas: Yes, and the whole world is against him. The UN Security Council has spoken very clearly that he must leave Kuwait. (S)

The President: In our own hemisphere, what about the peace talks between the FMLN and the Salvadoran government? I understand that there is a meeting this week in Mexico City. (S)

President Salinas: Yes, there is a meeting next week with the five Presidents from Central America to take place in the southern state of Chiapas, along our border with Guatemala. I will be talking directly with President Cristiani and the other presidents. We will push for an economic support plan for recovery of the region, and for the pacification of El Salvador. I expect that we will all back President Cristiani in his position in the peace talks with the FMLN. (S)

The President: We have been very concerned with the military offensive by the FMLN, and their use of surface to air missiles and obstruction in the peace talks. Maybe there is something good that you and the Central American Presidents can do. (S)

But isn't the UN mediating talks between the government and the FMLN in Mexico City this week? (S)

President Salinas: We hope so, yes. (U)

The President: Your government can play an important role here. I know that you have helped before, and I hope you will use your leverage with the FMLN to negotiate a cease-fire just as soon as possible. I think this is one area where Mexican leadership is key. Our hands are pretty full now with the events in the Middle East. And if there is anything that you can think of that we can do, just let us know. I salute your efforts thus far in this. (S)

President Salinas: I will be talking with President Cristiani on Thursday, the 10th, and will discuss all of this with him. We all very much want an end to the FMLN offensive and a cease-fire. (S)

The President: That would be good. (U)

Are you going to be able to take any time off? (U)

President Salinas: Yes. (U)

The President: I am taking the day off. How about you tomorrow? (U)

President Salinas: Oh, yes, totally. It is a holiday here. (U)

The President: Well, I am proud of our friendship, Carlos. I can't tell you how much we value your role in fostering good relations. (U)

President Salinas: I appreciate your kind words. We all enjoyed your visit to Monterrey. (U)

The President: It was wonderful. (U)

President Salinas: Your trip was very well received. It made a very good impression on the Mexican people and we were glad that you could come. (U)

The President: I was delighted. Well, good luck to you in 1991, and my love to all of your wonderful family who received us with so much warmth during our visit. (U)

President Salinas: Thank you, the same to you, and thank you very much for this call. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

President Salinas: Goodbye, George. (U)

- End of Conversation-