

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone conversation with President Rafael Callejas of Honduras (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Rafael Callejas, President of Honduras
Notetaker: David A. Pacelli

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: February 28, 1991, 1:10 - 1:13 p.m. EST
The Oval Office - Presidential Office

The President returned a call from President Callejas to discuss events in the Persian Gulf. (U)

The President: Hello, how are you, my friend? (U)

President Callejas: Hello, Mr. President. How are you? (U)

The President: Well, it is good to hear your voice. I am very happy to hear from you. (U)

President Callejas: I know from reading the news that you have been under a lot of stress and strain during the last few days. I want you to know that I am very proud of the excellent leadership you have shown in constructing a new world order. (U)

The President: You are very sweet to say that. I really appreciate that. We are trying the best we can for a new world order. We are trying to work with our friends within the hemisphere for that. Knowing that we have your support, and support from others in the hemisphere, makes things easier. I am very grateful, and pleased to hear from you. (U)

President Callejas: Your actions in the Persian Gulf have been a tremendous success. I have followed them closely here, and I have seen your speeches on the news. What you did, if I may say this, required a lot of guts, a lot of courage. Without that, a new order would not be a success. I am satisfied and proud that Honduras will be a part of a new world order. (U)

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The President: Well, we have a lot to do for that. I want you to know that we are not going to neglect our friends in the hemisphere either. Tell me, how are things back at home in your country? (S)

President Callejas: Things are not easy. We have a lot of cooperation from the United States. But these are tough times. We have had close relations with you. I believe that we [in Honduras] can work out our economic problems. We are looking ahead. (S)

The President: That is good to hear. Good luck. We are ready to pitch in and do our share to help you out. (S)

President Callejas: We admire all you have done, Mr. President. You have worked to defend the rule of law. The position you took is very positive from the perspective of a country like Honduras: no longer can a neighboring country come along and double you up simply because it is stronger. (S)

The President: That is a good way to look at it. We are looking at it as an accomplishment, which you put very well in terms of defending the rule of law. Another development is that there is a new patriotic spirit here. We have gotten beyond the Vietnam divisions and the Vietnam syndrome. For us, this is an additional positive point. (S)

President Callejas: We are happy with the way things worked out. You chose the best and most efficient way of handling things. (S)

The President: Thank you. I am sitting here with the Secretary of State, Brent Scowcroft, and Bob Gates. They will be very interested in what you have said and I will certainly share it with them. Well, good luck and stay in touch. (S)

President Callejas: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: Thanks again so much for your call. Goodbye. (U)

President Callejas: Goodbye. (U)

End of conversation