

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Bavarian Minister-President Max Streibl of Germany on June 28, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Robert Hutchings, Director for European Affairs
Gisela Marcuse, Interpreter

Max Streibl, Minister-President of Bavaria
Juergen Ruhfus, Ambassador
Paul Fischer, Bavarian Government
Ursula Weide, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 28, 1991, 9:45 - 9:55 a.m.
The Oval Office

The President: I am very pleased to see you. (U)

Minister-President Streibl: First, I would like to thank you for the U.S. support over these past 45 years and particularly during the period of unification. (U)

The President: We have been in this together. It is very generous of you to give credit to the U.S. (U)

Minister-President Streibl: We should especially see that the Atlantic partnership remains intact. (U)

The President: It is very important. General Walters has told me of your strong support on this point. He is singing your praises on lots of points. (U)

Minister-President Streibl: On this point, it is our firm view that NATO is not limited to defense issues; it is also a community of values. Let me raise another issue because Bavaria is very close to the East. We have very close contacts with Croatians, Slovenes and Czechs. Regarding Slovenia, it is important to give hope that they will eventually arrive at a more federative solution closer to the German federation. It is wrong to support the Serbs against the Slovenes and the Croats. (U)

The President: I agree. We have supported unity, but not at the expense of freedom. We are worried about the situation. (U)

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Minister-President Streibl: The fact is that people there must be given hope. I know them very well. I know they will ask no more than their basic freedoms. There is some hope of an eventual federalist solution. I have told them not to go too far. (Ø)

The President: I agree with what you said. (U)

Minister-President Streibl: Let me mention another issue: German participation in joint security operations. My view is that Article 24 of the Basic Law gives the right to take part within an Alliance context -- NATO or the UN. Any change in the constitution that goes beyond that would never get past the SPD which only wants blue helmet operations. I feel, before we end up getting less, we shouldn't change the constitution. (Ø)

The President: We don't want to go backwards. I think we are seeing eye to eye on this. How's the Chancellor? (Ø)

Minister-President Streibl: Very good. (U)

The President: We talked last week and will talk again after his meetings in the Soviet Union. You and he work closely together. (Ø)

Minister-President Streibl: Yes, yes. I've known him a long time, back to our time in the Young CDU.

-- End of Conversation --

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