

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister of Italy Giulio Andreotti

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Giulio Andreotti, Prime Minister
Interpreter: Neil Seidenam
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME August 19, 1991, 10:31 - 10:36 a.m.
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Giulio, George Bush. Can you hear me? (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, good morning. I hear you very well. (U)

The President: I was calling about the situation in the Soviet Union. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Andreotti: I am very surprised and concerned myself. ~~(S)~~

The President: Well, we were surprised also. There was no firm intelligence on this at all. And I think all leaders were surprised, most of all Gorbachev. I had a press conference, Giulio, in which I spelled out the position for the U.S. I hope your embassy will send you a transcript, and I hope that you agree with the line. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Andreotti: I'm sure they will send it to me immediately. I believe they are translating it now. ~~(S)~~

The President: I'd be most interested in your views, but if you have a minute, just let me click off a few points here. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Thank you. (U)

The President: One, we view this as extra-constitutional, outside the constitution. Two, we want to continue to back the hope for perestroika and reform. We don't want to move away from that in any way. And, three, we're trying to keep the tensions down. Our press tried to make it like this will mean that there will be some kind of military confrontation with the West. I'm saying that, no, it won't be like that at all, and we do not expect that changes that have taken place will be reversed whether it's Eastern Europe or arms control. But those are the

main points that I made. I would welcome any comments by you.

~~(S)~~
Prime Minister Andreotti: Well, I think these points are very wise and appropriate, Mr. President. I think that there is really a lot to your position in trying to keep the situation tranquil and put at ease and send a message, particularly to the former east bloc countries. ~~(S)~~

The President: Exactly. We will do that, and I'd appreciate as this develops any comments or suggestions as to what we may do. If I get anything new, I will be sure that you know about it.

~~(S)~~
Prime Minister Andreotti: Very good, Mr. President. As you know, I think, tomorrow is the meeting of the 12 foreign ministers of the EC and we will reflect this position. We will keep you informed as to developments in that quarter. ~~(S)~~

The President: Very good and thank you very much. We will continue to follow this closely. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --