

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with John Major, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on August 19, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Major, Prime Minister
Notetaker: David C. Gompert, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: August 19, 1991, 6:42 - 6:48am
Situation Room

The President: Hello John. Troubled Day. (U)

Prime Minister Major: It is very distressing. (U)

The President: We'll have press conference at 7:30. We have no inside info. (U)

Prime Minister Major: We neither. Stephen Wall will talk to Brent. It's all pretty unclear. I spoke to Mitterrand. He has the same view. EC Foreign Ministers meet tomorrow. A European Heads of Government meeting is likely, though I'm not sure what we'll do. (S)

The President: Yanayev was my host when I was in the USSR. He flew with me to Kiev. It looks like he is just a figurehead for the others. (S)

Prime Minister Major: We agree. Do you know what has become of Gorbachev? We tried to get in touch, but it was not possible. (S)

The President: Radios and TVs are down. What will Yeltsin do? (S)

Prime Minister Major: Margaret Thatcher put out a statement. She said people won't give up democracy lightly. Then she was starting to say there should be no cuts in defense spending. Unhelpful. (S)

The President: You handled it well. We don't need to increase defense spending because of this. I have no plans to go to D.C. We'll try to get Strauss there soon I look forward to your visit. (S)

End of Conversation

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