

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Latvian President Gorbunovs (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
President Anatoliy Gorbunovs  
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff  
Interpreter: Maija Lelis

DATE, TIME: September 2, 1991, 9:07 - 9am : 12pm  
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Hello, Mr. President. I am calling to tell you that in one hour we will go ahead with formal recognition of Latvia and the other Baltic states. This is good timing and I believe that we are going in the right direction. I just wanted you to know that. We have been working behind the scenes trying to get positive statements from the center. I believe we heard one yesterday. And I hope that will bring good news. I know that you have been waiting for a long time. I think our own policy is headed in the right direction. We never wavered in our support for your independence and our respect for those who have been fighting for it for a long, long time. (C)

President Gorbunovs: Mr. President, permit me to express my gratitude that you have taken this step and that diplomatic relations between Latvia and the U.S. will be re-established. I believe that your long-standing democratic tradition will help us to establish our own democracy. (U)

The President: I hope that it has that effect. I think people understand why we needed a few more days. I have tried to work on the inside to speed up your independence. (C)

President Gorbunovs: I agree with that completely. (U)

The President: Good luck. Best of luck to you. I look forward to working with you en route to total and complete independence for Latvia. I will send a representative in the near future to discuss these details with you. (C)

President Gorbunovs: Thank you. We look forward to that. We will do all within our powers to build a secure future. I hope that we will build a good and peaceful one. (U)

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The President: Well, good luck. I have great respect for you and the people of Latvia. I trust things will go well in the days and weeks ahead. (U)

President Gorbunovs: Thank you. I wish you success in everything. (U)

The President: Thank you very much, sir. I will make that announcement in about forty-five minutes. Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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