

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Estonian President Arnold Ruutel (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Arnold Ruutel
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff
Interpreter: Irene Andersen

DATE, TIME: September 2, 1991, 9:24 - 9:33am
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Mr. President, I am calling to say that in a few minutes I will make an announcement on the Baltics. I am very pleased that this announcement will be made. I have been working with the Soviets behind the scenes and would like you to know that I am very happy to make this announcement. It will be on television in about thirty minutes. So, I am very happy to talk to you. (C)

President Ruutel: I would like to thank you for your continued support and for this important decision. This is a most important step to assure our new independence. It is very important that the U.S. has made this decision and it will help to avoid any possible violence against the Baltic states. (C)

Considering the changing and complicated situation in Moscow, Mr. President, I would like to make one more request. I have been informed that neither the USSR nor Gorbachev himself have decided to recognize Baltic independence. Perhaps you could use your influence to convince the Soviets to make this decision. I personally would be very grateful for this step. As I have met with many different countries, I have asked them to accept us in the UN and other international organizations. Mr. President, I hope we can count on your support for this. (C)

The President: I would like to send an envoy to discuss these details. And one of the reasons I took some time on this is that I tried hard to get the Soviets to permit independence. I told Soviet leaders that the best thing they could do for relations with the U.S. would be to give the Balts their independence. I think Gorbachev's statement is a step in the right direction but it does not go far enough. The Congress of People's Deputies should act fully. But on your other questions, my representative will be there soon to talk to you and your people about where we go from here. (C)

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President Ruutel: I am very grateful and will be waiting for him. (U)

The President: Good luck and wait for the announcement. (U)

President Ruutel: Thank you personally from me and on behalf of the Estonian people for your great support. We are ready to receive your envoy. (U)

The President: Good luck to you and the wonderful people of Estonia. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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