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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela on September 5, 1991 (C)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela
Interpreter: Stephanie van Reigersberg
Notetaker: William T. Pryce/Robert B. Morley

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 5, 1991, 6:25 - 6:34 p.m. DST
Oval Office

President Perez: Hello? (U)

The President: How are you my friend? (U)

President Perez: Fine. It is such a pleasure to hear from you. It has been a long time. (U)

The President: It has been too darn long. I'm glad to hear your voice again. What can I do for you? (U)

President Perez: A lot of things have happened since we last talked. Fortunately, it seems as though many things are coming together. I am calling about El Salvador. I have been dealing with this matter with the Secretary General in an ongoing fashion. I am pressuring the Secretary General and also representatives of the FMLN. I think, thanks to pressure on the FMLN and the agreement of the Four Friends, the FMLN is going to New York in a more reasonable frame of mind. (C)

The President: Good. (U)

President Perez: I think that they will not insist on having on the agenda the merging of the two armies, which was just impossible. But they will bring it up in the talks. It is a way for them to overcome the situation they have created for themselves. They are also ready to agree to what I call an armed peace, an armistice before the formal cease-fire. Progress also hinges on the Constitutional Assembly or Congress of El Salvador implementing the constitutional changes agreed to in Mexico. In general, I think we are getting closer to rapprochement, reaching agreement, because the FMLN are talking more of the political process and participating in elections. (C)

I've tried but couldn't talk to President Cristiani. I couldn't get through to him. I want to talk to him and get his views on what has happened. (C)

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The President: What views of his are you especially interested in getting? Certainly he is going to think that the news about not joining the two armies is a good idea. (C)

President Perez: True. That point was absolutely inadmissible. (C)

The President: This is certainly good news. I hope everything moves forward quickly. (C)

President Perez: So do I. There is another thing I wanted to raise. I have been talking to the President of the IDB, Enrique Iglesias, about my concerns about the Enterprise for the Americas and the multilateral investment fund. I am in agreement with him and want to support him. I have written letters to the Europeans to get them to fill the fund to \$1.5 billion. I have written to the French, the Swedes, the Germans, the Italians and the Spanish, on the assumption the United States is also writing to the Europeans. (C)

The President: True. Letters have gone out to the Group of Seven. I hope we will get a favorable response. (C)

President Perez: I have also sent letters to the Group of Seven. (C)

The President: Good. (U)

President Perez: I will give a copy of our letter to your Ambassador and ask him to send it to you. I think my Minister of the Presidency has already sent a copy of it to General Scowcroft. (C)

The President: Good. If you have sent it to Scowcroft, I will get it tomorrow if he got it. I hope that the Europeans, with their renewed interest in developments in Eastern Europe, especially the Baltics, won't have a reduced interest on this. (C)

President Perez: There are always problems as one looks to the future. But I am optimistic, all of Latin America is optimistic about what is happening, about the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative. (C)

The President: Wonderful. We are going to keep fighting for it. (C)

President Perez: I think Gorbachev is better off with the Baltics issue behind him. There was no other solution besides independence. (C)

The President: I agree. (U)

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President Perez: I have been following with great interest your position with respect to the USSR, and am pleased with your attitude toward the crisis. It was always the correct one. (C)

The President: Thanks for the kind words. These are important times we are living through. There are very important changes taking place, that history will take note of. I think when we see the history books in twenty years, then it will be clear that these are very important times. (C)

President Perez: I agree. I hope to see you at the United Nations General Assembly. (U)

The President: I am looking forward to it very much. I'll buy you a glass of beer. (U)

President Perez: Thank you. (U)

The President: Thanks for calling, see you in New York. (U)

President Perez: See you soon. (U)

The President: So long. (U)

--- End of Conversation ---

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