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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Secretary General  
Javier Perez de Cuellar of the  
United Nations (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
Andrew Card, Assistant to the President and  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Thomas R. Pickering, Representative of the  
United States to the United Nations  
John R. Bolton, Assistant Secretary of State  
for International Organization Affairs  
Nancy Bearg Dyke, NSC Staff (notetaker)

Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary  
General  
Virendra Dayal, Chef de Cabinet  
Ron Spiers, Under Secretary General  
Marrack Goulding, Under Secretary General  
Alvaro de Soto, Assistant Secretary General  
Gustav Feissel, Special Representative for  
Cyprus  
Lisa Buttenheim, Senior Officer (notetaker)

DATE, TIME September 23, 1991, 1:15 - 1:30pm EST  
AND PLACE: The Indonesian Lounge at the United Nations,  
New York City

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: On Afghanistan, I recently met with the Presidents of Iran and Pakistan and the King of Saudi Arabia. I stressed the five points for an Afghan settlement. Recent US-USSR statements have been extremely good. I am having a further meeting today. The Soviets are now saying that Najibullah is prepared to step down during a transition process. Moreover, Najibullah himself confirmed this to Benon Sevan recently. I am preparing to call a meeting in Geneva of all Afghan factions. Included in the topics for discussion would be Najibullah's movement to a transition process. Benon Sevan is in consultation with everyone to get an acceptable list of Afghans who could be invited to the Geneva conference. I expect that the conference could be convened toward the end of October or early November. (S)

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Secretary Baker: We want to assure you that your efforts have the support of both the United States and the Soviet Union. (C)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: I am concerned that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan is still not persuaded that the UN's efforts should be supported. (C)

Secretary Baker: We are trying to persuade the Pakistanis as well. (C)

The President: Who will address the UN General Assembly for Pakistan? (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: The Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry. The Saudis are also supportive of my efforts. (C)

Secretary Baker: I agree. (U)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: The Iranians have agreed to work with the Afghan factions represented in the refugee population inside Iran. (U)

The President: What about El Salvador? (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: I was up until 2:00 a.m. this morning in discussions with the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN. I believe that there have been important mutual concessions, and President Cristiani seems optimistic. The three problems of the elections, purification, and the social and economic issues remain. I believe that both President Cristiani and the FMLN really want a settlement. I am hopeful on the situation. (C)

The President: What about Cyprus? We thought it was on track fairly well, until the Yilmaz-Mitsotakis meeting. (C)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: The Cyprus problem is like a yo-yo; it goes up and it goes down all the time. Turkey has been very helpful with Denktash, and I am planning to meet with the Foreign Minister of Turkey soon. Denktash is a spoiler. (C)

The President: We thought the process was on track fairly well until the Yilmaz-Mitsotakis meeting, but that meeting derailed things. (C)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: Yes. Mitsotakis called me subsequent to the meeting to say that the Greeks would nonetheless continue to negotiate. The problem is that Yilmaz is an ambitious politician and he is very concerned about the Turkish elections. (C)

The President: I really am disappointed because I thought things were going in the right direction. We tried to bring it closer to an understanding. (C)

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Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: On the Western Sahara, things are moving. But King Hassan has made problems for MINURSO by the extensive supplemental list of voters submitted by the Moroccan authorities and by the threat to move as many as 150,000 so-called Sawharis from Morocco into the Western Sahara. (C)

The President: The King is coming to Washington later in the week. (U)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: I will see him too and I will tell him that it is impossible to move that many people back into the Western Sahara. (C)

The President: We will try to help on that because we are going to have some private meetings with King Hassan. (C)

Secretary Baker: I spoke with the King in late July when I was in Morocco and urged him to cooperate with the UN. He gave me verbal assurances that he would cooperate, but we will mention this again in Washington. (C)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: I want to tell you that the UN is facing immediate cash flow problems. (U)

The President: What is the status of our appropriations request? (U)

Assistant Secretary Bolton: Appropriations are moving well in Congress and we should get full funding for the assessment and slice of arrears later this fall. The authorization conference is next week, so it is a matter of time. (U)

The President: If there is a continuing resolution, can we get the Secretary General some money? (U)

Assistant Secretary Bolton: We want a larger chunk than that. (U)

Secretary Baker: There are large peacekeeping operations coming up for funding. (U)

The President: Hungarian Prime Minister Antall told me that Czechoslovakia may split up as soon as next week. The Hungarians are also worried about refugees coming from Yugoslavia. (C)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: We have no reserves (funds). (U)

Under Secretary Spiers: There is a tough structural problem because the fiscal year of the US differs from the UN year. So the assessment payment comes late in our year. (U)

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Assistant Secretary Bolton: That is the result of a one-time budget maneuver in the previous administration. The only way to change it is to move it back a year, thus entailing a double payment in one year. (U)

The President: We should look for opportunities to return to the prior appropriations schedule. The way to do it may be to get a big win out of Iraq and have Congressional emotions high. (U)

Ambassador Pickering: It would be a big slice of money. (U)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: I want to pay tribute to Secretary Baker for his efforts in the Arab-Israeli peace process. (U)

Secretary Baker: I don't have anything concrete yet, but I am hopeful. (C)

The President: We want to thank you for what you and your people have done on the hostages. It is important to the American people. What you told me about Picco is very important. The UN guy (Higgins) who died was an American and his wife is an American Marine. She is very courageous. (C)

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: We are doing it step by step. (C)

The President: You told us you would try and you have. (C)

End of Conversation

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