

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prince Hans Adam of Liechtenstein

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National security Affairs
Robert L. Hutchings, Director for European Affairs (Notetaker)

Prince Hans Adam II
Hans Brunhart, Prime Minister

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 27, 1991, 3:05 - 3:28 p.m.
The Oval Office

The President: I am delighted to see you. We have several mutual friends. Claiborne has been for years a friend of the Bush family. My dad served in the Senate with him, though from a different party. How do you see problems in Europe? How do you see things going? (C)

Prime Hans Adam: It is great that Communism waned rather peacefully. It could have been much worse. (C)

The President: Yes. As the matrix of Communism goes, there are bound to be conflicts and disputes. We hope to resolve them peacefully, including through a newly activated UN. Was your speech about self-determination? (C)

Prime Hans Adam: Yes. I thought when the Soviet Union broke apart, ethnic problems would come up. The question is how to channel them -- not through break up, but through some kind of devolution. (C)

The President: But your borders are secure. (U)

Prime Hans Adam: Oh, yes. They have been secure for 600 years and were only challenged by Napoleon and Hitler. (U)

The President: But did Hitler respect the borders? (U)

Prime Hans Adam: Yes, but it was a close thing. According to my father, it was very close. It seemed that Hitler thought that we should come in ourselves. He financed the Nazi party in Liechtenstein, but it fizzled. (U)

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The President: When he met with your dad, did he exact conditions? (U)

Prime Hans Adam: No. There was a British radio station which the Third Reich threatened to bombard, but we came up with a solution, a very English solution, whereby we reinterpreted our treaty with the British postal service. (U)

The President: But all this international change doesn't affect your sovereignty and stability. (U)

Prime Hans Adam: No. There is the question of Switzerland's joining the EC. If so, we'll have to decide whether to follow. We probably will not, but we would need a free trade treaty. It could end our close relationship with Switzerland. (C)

We have another mutual friend, Sadri Aga Khan and Katy. (U)

The President: Yes, he really wants to be UN Secretary General. He has a lot of friends, including the U.S., but he is up against a lot of Africans who feel it is their turn. Sadruddin thinks they'll come around, but it's not a matter of the U.S. just waving its hand and getting its choice. What about Katy? Do you think she wants it? (C)

Prime Hans Adam: No, he told her this was something unique and it would only be four years. He tried to convince her. (C)

The President: I think if it were handed to him with no fight, she would say sure. We are so close, I can't be entirely impartial. There are other candidates: Ghali, Chidzero, and the Ugandan. There are three to four so far, but the Africans haven't coalesced around one. It is too early to see what is going to happen. Boutros' problem is that he isn't considered an African by the Africans. Second, he is Christian, not a Muslim, so it will take a while to sort out. How long will you be in the States? (C)

Prime Hans Adam: I leave tomorrow morning. (U)

The President: For home? (U)

Prime Hans Adam: No. I am going to Buenos Aires. (U)

(closing pleasantries)

-- End of Conversation --