

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7233

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

October 2, 1991

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

THROUGH: WILLIAM T. PRYCE *WTP*

FROM: ROBERT B. MORLEY *RM*

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, October 1, 1991

NOTED

Attached at Tab A is the Memorandum of Telephone Conversation between the President and President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela on October 1, 1991. At Tab I is a transmittal memorandum to the State Department forwarding the telcon to Assistant Secretary Aronson and Ambassadors Skol in Venezuela and Adams in Haiti.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I transmitting the telcon at Tab A to the State Department.

That the attached Memorandum of Telephone Conversation be filed for the record.

Approve *KJH* Disapprove _____

Attachments

- Tab I Sittmann Memorandum to Pearson
- Tab A Memorandum of Telephone Conversation

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC 3.5(B)
WHITE HOUSE GUIDELINES, AUGUST 28, 1997
BY *BSK* NARA, DATE *6/11/01*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela on October 1, 1991 (C)

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: October 1, 1991, 9:57 a.m. - 10:05 a.m. DST
 The Oval Office

The President: Hello, CAP, how are you? (U)

President Perez: How are you? (U)

The President: I don't want to take too much of your time. We agreed yesterday that we would talk again today. Things seem to be a little better. I gather they are getting back on track today, and I think the OAS passed a useful resolution condemning the coup and calling for the restoration of Aristide. But, I wanted to know what your last minute thinking is. What do you think of the situation? (C)

President Perez: I think the situation is very bad. Aristide arrived this morning very depressed about the future. There is no communication with Haiti. None at all. Everything is cut. The army is in total control of everything. I talked to Aristide. According to the information I got from him, the coup was led by the Minister of Defense. I don't know if a government has been named yet. Many are dead. Something has to be done urgently. I think that the idea of an OAS mission headed by Secretary General Baena Soares is a good one, but it needs to happen very soon. (C)

President Bush: We agree with you that it is a good idea. If you think this initiative would help, then we would be supportive. (C)

President Perez: I think we also need to be prepared for harder and more severe measures. I am asking my people to be prepared to cut our supply of oil to Haiti. (C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

CONFIDENTIAL

President Bush: Won't the OAS consider further steps they should take? (C)

President Perez: Yes. The problem is that the meeting of the Foreign Ministers cannot take place until tomorrow. It cannot be held until tomorrow because many Ministers cannot arrive before then. (C)

President Bush: Have you got any suggestions for the United States on measures we can take? (C)

President Perez: I think what we must do is wait for the Foreign Ministers to meet. Then we must propose tough economic sanctions. We should begin with rough economic measures. (C)

President Bush: But this would be done through the OAS. The sanctions would be broadly endorsed. (C)

President Perez: Yes, if possible. I discussed this with Mulroney and Mitterrand, and they agree that it would be useful to consider such measures. But first we must wait and see what the Foreign Ministers decide. If necessary, however, we should act alone. (C)

President Bush: We would support economic sanctions. But, we would want to do it in the broadest possible context. We are sensitive to the use of force in the hemisphere. We have learned many hard lessons. (C)

President Perez: What we could do, perhaps, during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Washington, is form a group consisting of France, Canada, the United States, Venezuela, and possibly Colombia to consider the situation and see what can be done, and perhaps what they suggest. This might help things go faster. (C)

President Bush: Let's proceed that way. I'm at the White House, but I will make sure Brent Scowcroft and Jim Baker know we are prepared to proceed on that basis. We will follow up. (C)

President Perez: Very well. In the meantime, I will speak with President Aristide, and if I learn anything new, I will let you know. I will also have my military people be in touch with Aristide's military advisor, Colonel (name not heard), who is here also, and see what he knows. (C)

President Bush: Stay in close touch. (U)

President Perez: Okay. Good bye now. (U)

--- End of Conversation ---

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~