

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
The Vice President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Katherine Stewart, Interpreter

Greece
Constantine Mitsotakis, Prime Minister
Antonios Samaras, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Anna Kyrtsou, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 12, 1991, 11:00 - 11:20 a.m.
Oval Office

The President: Are there any sensitive subjects you would like to discuss? (S)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Nothing in particular. The political situation is good in Greece. Your trip was very beneficial. There is no anti-Americanism since you visited. Our policy has no problem with the people. Economic signs are beginning to improve. We hope that as of 1993 and onward we will be on the right path. (S)

The President: But is the situation stable domestically? (S)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Yes. We have tense relations with the opposition. Papandreou's trial will be over by Christmas. This leads to tension but it will be over soon. (S)

The President: Do you get drawn into this, or is this just between him and the court? (S)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: He tried to bring politics into the trial but it didn't do much. (S)

One point on Maastricht. Greece will become a member of the WEU. Turkey will be an associate member. We still have close ties to NATO, which pleases us, with European security ties. Major expressed it very well, WEU acting as a compliment to NATO. (S)

The President: That is very important to us. (U)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: But European defense is also useful.

The President: True. We put out a supporting statement yesterday. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: We had several differences with the allies about WEU membership -- the British and the Dutch had reservations, and we also knew the limits of U.S. reservations. (Ø)

The President: None that I know of. (U)

General Scowcroft: We had also hoped Turkey could be a full member, but we had no reservations about Greek membership. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: It pleases me to hear this. Turkey is an associate member of the EC so this is a corresponding position. (Ø)

The President: I understand you know Demirel well. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: I have known him for 30 years. We have maintained our friendship throughout all these years. I hope to be able to work with him. (Ø)

The President: We were disappointed about Cyprus. We had hoped to move things forward but the Turkish elections and Yilmaz stopped it. Now we'll have to bring Demirel along. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: I think there are possibilities. (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --