

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor
Interpreter: Erika Konuk
Notetakers: Tony Wayne/Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 14, 1991, 4:05 - 4:19 p.m.
Camp David

The President: Helmut, how are you? I hope I'm not disturbing you. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Very well. I am at my party convention. We are having a meeting with journalists, however, so it's no problem to talk with you. This is the first time that we've met in one of the new states, in Dresden. If you remember, this is where I gave my famous speech two years ago. (C)

The President: Yes, I remember that well. Let me first offer my congratulations on the success at Maastricht. I was very happy that you were able to reach agreement, and I know that a lot of the credit goes to you. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you, George. It was a very great day, and most people haven't yet realized how great it was. Within six years, Europe will be completely changed, and, of course, we will be working together with the United States. (C)

The President: I'm calling you on that darned Uruguay Round. I know you got my letter on this. It was extremely blunt, but I think the situation called for it. I don't know how you feel, but I am very discouraged at this moment. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: I have read your letter and initiated all kinds of activities. On Monday, I'm sending a number of my staff members to various cities and capitals, and I will take the matter into my own hands. (C)

The President: Let me take a moment and give you the consensus of our feeling here. Now I know that there is a different perspective on your side. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Of course. (U)

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The President: We got a letter from Lubbers saying that if we showed flexibility on the non-agricultural subjects then the EC could show flexibility on agriculture. So we went forward and offered a number of flexible ideas in the non-agricultural area. Let's be very frank. I don't think the EC has shown the flexibility needed to move toward agreement on agriculture. As I believe Ruud will tell you, we've tried to be flexible even in agriculture. We made some serious efforts on market access and internal supports, but it looks like the EC has even gone backwards. Without going into detail, let me give you my bottom line. We really need a commitment to substantial volume reduction in subsidized exports. If we don't get that, our Congress will argue that the EC is offering nothing that wouldn't come anyway with CAP reform. So that's the key point. (Ø)

I'm appealing that the EC make a serious effort and not just for us, but for the many others also, the Cairns Group and others. The last point is that the key EC commissioners are meeting this weekend with Delors, but they need direction from the top political leadership of the Community. I have talked with Ruud, and he promised to help with Delors. And I also told Lubbers that I would send our agricultural secretary on short notice to try to wrap things up. I am very pleased with what you said about sending your people, but what I really need is movement on the volume of subsidized exports. That is my bottom line. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Good. Are you finished? (U)

The President: I don't want to take any more of your time, but I am prepared to answer any questions that you have. And again, I am encouraged that you said you would send your people to work on this. That is what we need to do now to solve the problem. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I will do the following. Feiter has talked to some of your staffers. I don't recall the name. (Ø)

The President: I don't, either, but I have a report from General Scowcroft. Not very positive. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I will have him call General Scowcroft. Can he reach him in the office tomorrow? (Ø)

The President: You can reach him either at home or in the office with the same number. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: If Feiter calls Scowcroft at 9:00 U.S. time, they can discuss the details, and then I can pick up the action on Monday. (Ø)

The President: We have some problems on the Feiter position, but it's very technical. I'll have Scowcroft talk to him tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. U.S. time. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Will he be in the office? (U)

The President: The same number will get him in his home or in the office. But one more question, Helmut. How is your son?
(U)

Chancellor Kohl: He will be coming home from the hospital on Tuesday. Then he will have eight weeks of rehabilitation, but he will completely recover. This is the best Christmas present that we could have. (U)

The President: Wonderful. I hope you, Hannelore, and your family have a wonderful Christmas. Barbara sends her best wishes. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Give Barbara our best regards, and since I'm always concerned that the President of the United States not suffer from hunger, I have a package on the way to you. (U)

The President: Wonderful. I hope I know what it is. Good bye.
(U)

-- End of Conversation --