

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Guillermo Endara of Panama on April 10, 1992 (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Endara of Panama
Interpreter: Patricia Arizu
Notetaker: John McShane/James Waurishuk

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 10, 1992, 4:22-4:26 p.m., EDT
Camp David

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

President Endara: Hello, George, it's so nice to hear your voice. (U)

The President: Well, it's nice to hear your voice. How are you doing? I saw you on television last night, and I just wanted to tell you that we too are very pleased with the verdict against that terrible Noriega. We certainly appreciate your government's help with this trial. I hope this brings a difficult chapter in Panama's history to a close. (Ø)

President Endara: Thank you. I hope you are doing well, and I also saw you on television. Your words were exactly what I felt. We are very happy with the verdict, and we feel that justice has been done. Your justice system is not perfect but it is very close to being perfect, and it certainly showed in this case. (Ø)

The President: Well, the television people are making this out to be unpopular, but I don't think that's the case and I hope the people in Panama are pleased with the results. Is that the case? (Ø)

President Endara: Oh yes, certainly. I have been receiving many faxes and telephone calls from people happy with the result and asking me to declare a national holiday, the "Day of Justice". Of course, I can not do that -- we have a lot of work to do. But there is general happiness here in Panama. (Ø)

You know, there is one thing that I don't think people realize up there. The day of sentencing, July 10th, is the anniversary of what we call "Black Friday" -- a day when Noriega used a lot of force against the people. It is very proper that this is the day (of sentencing). (U)

The President: Isn't that interesting? I didn't know that. It makes the sentencing doubly good. I hope the judge does what he should and puts him away for a long time. So other than this, how are things going generally? I want to tell you that you are doing a good job turning things around and consolidating democracy in Panama. (S)

President Endara: Things are going very well. We have full democracy now. The people have their rights. We are still experimenting with our democracy, but everything is working fine. I have my problems with Congress and getting things done, but I understand you do as well. (U)

The President: (President laughs) Yes, well I just wanted to wish you well. It's good to have such a great reason to talk with you again. (U)

President Endara: Thank you very much for the call, George. And I wish you well. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

President Endara: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --