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<td>05. Memcon</td>
<td>President Bush Meeting with President von Weizsaecker of Germany [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (2 pp.)</td>
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Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: National Security Council
Series: Hutchings, Robert L.
Subseries: Country File
WHORM Cat.: 
File Location: United Germany [1]

Date Closed: 9/23/2003
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AR Disposition Date: 

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MR Disposition: Released in Part
MR Disposition Date: 6/16/2010

RESTRICTION CODES
Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]
P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.
MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President von Weizsaecker of Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Richard von Weizsaecker, President
Andreas Meyer-Landrut, Chief of Staff of the President’s Office

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 29, 1992, 10:30 - 10:55 a.m.
Oval Office

The President: It is great to have you here. If there is anything you wish to say in private....

President von Weizsaecker: There is perhaps one point. We are pressed with questions about the inner strength of Germany. The strength of the Right-wing in the recent Land elections, the budget deficit, and now the strikes: these are unusual for Germany. And what will happen to foreign policy post-Genscher? It is true that Chancellor Kohl’s burdens are heavy. It is more difficult to be Chancellor of a coalition than to be a British Prime Minister. He has the burden of leading his party and his two coalition partners.

The budget deficit is easy to explain. We have transferred 200 billion Deutsche Marks to the east for two years, yet unemployment is still rising. We are by no means through. There is much personal criticism of our behavior in the East over forty years. Genscher’s departure will not mean a change in our foreign policy. We don’t want a new direction. There will be absolutely no change. Genscher’s successor is a good, reliable man. The mood in the foreign office is relieved.

The President: What happened to the woman who was first selected?

President von Weizsaecker: Kinkel was head of the BND for two years; he was your counterpart. There was a division of labor between Kohl and Genscher. Now there will be more burden on Kohl. The strikes are not serious. These are actually good, because it points out to the people that we cannot raise wages in the West and ignore
the needs of the east. Chancellor Kohl now has a great burden to carry. (C)

The President: Thank you for this insight. I will try to be alert and helpful and not to complicate his problems. There was an ugly piece on "60 Minutes" about the return of the Nazis. If we can help set the record straight, I would like your suggestion. (C)

President von Weizsaecker: It has nothing to do with the rebirth of the Nazis. It is asylum-seekers that are at the root of it. There are so many that they threaten to overwhelm us. We are the one open country. We want to make asylum a European problem, but so far it is mostly ours. The other problem is a Right-wing movement about national identity, in the context of EC integration. There is also the issue of rich versus poor in a united Europe. There is Le Pen in France, and similar movements in Italy and Germany. In Germany there is a fear that turning the Deutsche Mark into the European currency would weaken it. But none of this has anything to do with Fascism. (C)

The President: I will get a videotape of the program to you. (C)

President von Weizsaecker: There is a good U.S. movie called "Troubled Conscience" about the Resistance during the 1930s. It is very good, about an issue very little known in the U.S. (C)

-- End of Conversation --