

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Jacques Delors, President of the EC Commission

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
 Jacques Delors, President of the EC Commission  
 Interpreter: Liza Burnham  
 Notetaker: Tony Wayne, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: May 1, 1992, 3:11 - 3:23 pm  
 AND PLACE: White House

The President: Jacques, how are you? (U)

President Delors: Fine and you? Do you have better news about Los Angeles and Atlanta? (U)

The President: Yes. Things are calming down a little bit. I will speak to the nation at 9:00 pm tonight. Things are calming down, but there has been a terrible kind of rioting, destruction and anger. But it will calm down. I am prepared to use whatever force necessary to stop the rioting. Hopefully, it will be quiet tonight. (U)

President Delors: I hope so, too. (U)

The President: Thank you very much for inquiring. It's a very difficult time. I'm calling to let you know that I think we are close to compromise language regarding the Climate Treaty. (U)

President Delors: I made a proposal on this to you at our last meeting. (U)

The President: Yes, the Chairman may circulate a draft with compromise language proposing a commitment regarding green house gases. People see us as having great difficulty on this issue, which is correct. His language will stretch us to the limit. But I believe we can live with what I am told the language will be. I am calling you because I know you want a strong Climate Change treaty and to have Rio be a success. I know for some talk of deadlines and targets is essential, but many people also want the U.S. to participate, which I'd like to be able to do. However, with this language as I've heard it, I've gone as far as I can go. This is our bottom line. I really appreciated your thoughts on this issue when we talked last week. I think this compromise proposal picks up on your idea. (U)

President Delors: Your negotiators have put forward this proposal of new wording? (Ø)

The President: No, our negotiators believe the Chairman's compromise wording would be acceptable to us. If the Chairman puts forward the text as we last saw it, we will be able to accept the Chairman's draft. But we cannot accept amendments. I hope we can go down there united in the West. But this language is as much as we can accept. (Ø)

President Delors: I intend to speak with the Secretary General of the conference and to see if we can accept the text. (Ø)

The President: That would be wonderful. If you accept the text, I am sure other European leaders will follow. (Ø)

President Delors: I intend to study the last text you mentioned and talk with the Council of Ministers, and I will see if we can refuse all amendments after our agreement. (Ø)

The President: If you could accept what I am told is a very good Chairman's text without amendment, we'll be on our way to a good Rio meeting. Are there any new developments on the Uruguay Round? (Ø)

President Delors: We have a very serious problem on oilseeds. The Commission is very worried about your decision. It makes it very difficult for me to continue our bilateral discussions with you on the Round. I hope you will not publish your list of goods for retaliation quickly. If it is possible to wait a month, that would be helpful. This decision created a bad mood among the twelve and especially coming just three days after your visit at White House. (Ø)

The President: About oilseeds, after two GATT findings in our favor and no sign of a reasonable response from the EC, we had no choice but to start our process of retaliation. (Ø)

President Delors: But we had no time to offer a proposal so we could reach agreement within GATT. (Ø)

The President: This is not irreversible. There is time to work this out. This is not irreversible. (Ø)

President Delors: That's good. If it is possible for you not to publish your retaliation list right away, then it would be possible to have new discussions in Geneva and to find agreement. (Ø)

The President: Yes, I think some time before the message is published is possible. I will study our regulations and see if we can do it. I think it may be possible. (Ø)

President Delors: Please do. I will study the new language for the Climate Treaty and the Rio conference. I will try to see if

I can help facilitate your task. I hope you can go to the Rio conference. (C)

The President: Yes, my intention is to go if we can get this language agreed. (C)

President Delors: That will be very good. Then we will both be there. (C)

The President: Thank you very much, Jacques. I also wanted to tell you that I felt very good about our last meeting. I think it was the best meeting we have had yet. (C)

President Delors: Thank you. I agree. (C)