

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Ruud Lubbers
Interpreter: none
Notetaker: Tony Wayne, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: May 1, 1992, 3:30 pm
AND PLACE: White House

The President: Ruud, Ruud? How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Ruud here, so sorry for you about L.A. (U)

The President: Yes, yes, difficult situation. It is causing great grief, concern, and a lot of violence. I think it is calming down a bit though. I very much appreciate your mentioning this point. It is a real trauma. We'll overcome this. We'll get out of this. (U)

Look, I'm calling about this Rio conference. I know you have had great problems with preparations for this conference. I am calling to say two things: first, I know our differences on this, but secondly, I think we can find some compromise language we can agree to which will make the summit a success. I believe the Chairman is going to table a draft, and I understand he's already circulating it informally to delegations to get reactions. From what I have been told, we can live with the Chairman's text. But I wanted to call knowing our great differences on this issue and how high it is on your agenda. This compromise language will stretch us. We can't go beyond it. Some in Congress and elsewhere will see this as a green light to send me all types of legislation. But the U.S. economy must be allowed to move forward. I can't put new limits on it. (U)

From what I'm told, he is circulating this language now. I'm told we can live with the Chairman's text if it stays like it is. This would clear the way for me to go to Rio. I do not want to put you on the spot. But I wanted to call you as an old friend and as President. I recognize our differences, but this looks like a way we can agree on the text. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Is that what he's proposing? (U)

The President: Yes, take a look at it. See if you can support it. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: I will look at it. Have you talked to anyone else? (C)

The President: I have only talked to Jacques Delors about this so far. Delors seems to know something about it. I do not want to put words in his mouth, but I had the feeling that this may be something to which he can agree. (C)

Prime Minister Lubbers: When will this be discussed? (C)

The President: Brent is sitting right here, let me ask. He thinks as soon as this afternoon. (C)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Have you had any contact with the Japanese? (C)

The President: I went into it with the MITI minister this morning. He sounded positive, and I had the feeling that the Japanese would agree, though the minister hadn't seen the draft language. I hope you will ask your people not to reject it prematurely but to take a look good look at it. (C)

Prime Minister Lubbers: We do approach this issue a little bit differently, but I'll take a look and get comments from our people. I will urge that we not change the text if at all possible. I wish you all the best in all questions. (C)

The President: Thanks so much. Sorry to call so late. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: No problem. I wish you best with L.A. Goodbye. (U)