

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela, on June 20, 1992 (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Carlos Andres Perez
Interpreter: Patsy Arizu
Notetaker: Robert Morley and Bill Pryce

DATE, TIME: June 20, 1992, 2:27 - 2:42pm DST
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: Hello, CAP. Can you hear me? This is George. (U)

President Perez: It is great to talk to you again. I can hear you fine. (U)

The President: I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to talk in Rio. I just talked to Brian Mulroney of Canada and he said he had met with you. I hope your domestic situation is OK. We are thinking of you all the time. (Ø)

President Perez: Thanks a lot. I wanted to tell you about the conversation Brian and I had. You probably know exactly what I have to say if you have talked to him. I am very concerned about the deterioration and downward trend in Haiti. We should clearly agree on what to do on Haiti. My idea is that the United States, Canada, Venezuela, and perhaps France and Jamaica should set up a working group. The group could meet at the OAS in Washington, study the situation, and agree on definite action. It would include our OAS ambassadors. I see the situation in Haiti getting out of hand. Aristide is letting violence take over with serious consequences for the United States and for Latin America. (Ø)

The President: I agree with what you say. But I think you should call Aristide and try to get him to work with Bazin. Frankly, we always thought Bazin was a good man, but Aristide won't accept him. We have to get Aristide to work with him. I think we should try to change his mind on that. (Ø)

President Perez: Yes, I think that the position of Aristide is a very firm one. He does not want to accept Bazin. But I will talk to him later on. I want to see if we could exert some kind of collective pressure on him. (Ø)

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The President: We'd like to do that. In our judgment, because of what has happened in Haiti, Aristide should be more flexible. I talked to him in Rio, and he was not responsive. I think the next step is to get everyone to talk to Aristide. Mulroney said he would talk to Mitterand and try to get him to do something. We should exert collective pressure. (Ø)

President Perez: OK. I think the meeting I suggested would allow us to reach agreement on what we should do. (Ø)

The President: It is a good idea. What level were you thinking of? (Ø)

President Perez: I think the group should include our OAS Ambassadors and perhaps personal representatives at a high level. (Ø)

The President: OK. I will implement this idea Monday at our end. But in the meantime, we should make the calls to Aristide, pressing him to work with Bazin. Aristide must be persuaded to be more flexible. We should also talk about the OAS civilian mission to Haiti and a security mission. (Ø)

President Perez: I agree we should move flexibly on this. But first we need to establish a common position. I will talk to Aristide this afternoon, and also talk to Jamaica. Aristide is going to Jamiaca now. (Ø)

The President: I should tell you that up here, we are getting tired of Aristide and his inflexibility. Bazin is a good man. He is willing to work to resolve the situation. I know Aristide has problems, but there comes a time when he has to be more flexible or we can no longer support him in all this. He has got to be more flexible. (Ø)

President Perez: Sure, of course. It is a complex situation in Haiti. I agree with what you say. It is necessary to move Haiti along for the sake of Haiti and for the sake of Latin America. (Ø)

I have other ideas on important matters, but I understand you are on Air Force One, and have a host of problems to deal with. They are problems I follow with a great deal of interest. Instead of talking about it, I am going to write you a letter on the other issues. We have already dealt with the urgent subject of Haiti, and agreed to meetings which should have results. (Ø)

I also wanted to tell you how intelligently you dealt with the situation at Rio de Janeiro. (Ø)

The President: Well, thanks. I appreciate those thoughts. If there is any way I can help you, by demonstrating our support for your democracy, just let me know. If Aristide shows any flexibility, give me a call. We will set up the working group next week as you suggested. (Ø)

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President Perez: Magnificent. I wish you all success in your own situation. I'm sure you will win. But things are happening rapidly in the world. (U)

The President: They sure are. It is a crazy political year up here. (U)

President Perez: Good by. I hope to see you soon. (U)

The President: Good by. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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