

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Violeta Chamorro of Nicaragua on
September 25, 1992 (C)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Violeta Chamorro, President of Nicaragua
Interpreter: Patricia Arizu
Notetaker: John McShane/Roseanne Hill

DATE, TIME September 25, 1992, 10:24 - 10:41pm EDT
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: Violeta, Como está? (U)

President Chamorro: I'm very well, and you? (U)

The President: I'm okay. I'm back on the airplane heading to Ohio from Chicago. I am sorry I missed a face-to-face visit with you in New York. (U)

President Chamorro: Well, I feel the same way. I'm sorry I couldn't see you after your speech, but I understand that you are on the campaign trail now. Thank you for the call. It is very good to get a call from you. I wanted to tell you, please don't forget your commitment to the Nicaraguan people -- the assistance. If the money is not forthcoming, we will have major problems. The extremists on both sides will cause problems for me. Yours truly will be thrown out. (C)

The President: Violeta, we do not want you to be thrown out. We will continue to work with Senator Helms and the Congress to free up the money. I know that you have done some reforms and talked to (Acting Secretary of State) Larry Eagleburger. Did your talk with Eagleburger go well? (C)

President Chamorro: Well, I think the conversation with Eagleburger went well. It was a good conversation, but it is better to talk with you. I want you to know that you can't move too fast with a new democracy. Things are getting done slowly -- we are making reforms with the police and we have a new tripartite commission headed by the Archbishop. It is not easy to change quickly. On the subject of Senator Helms, I think you put too much importance on what Helms says. You, yourself, need to be tougher with him. Anyway, slowly but surely we are making changes but I need the aid by September 30th. (C)

The President: We will keep working with the Congress and pushing on Senator Helms, but it's a crazy system up there in

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Congress with the staffers and all. We know it takes time for reforms. Anything you can do will help, and we will continue to push. I wanted you to hear that from me. Don't get discouraged. (Ø)

President Chamorro: Well, yes, I thank you very much. I know what you are talking about with Congress. I have the same problems with our Congress. In fact, the President of our Assembly is trying to topple me. He wants to be President. And Daniel Ortega is trying to topple me. They all want to be President. If I don't get the assistance to meet IMF goals by September 30th, I will lose. (Ø)

The President: We don't want that to happen. That's the last thing we want to happen. The Commission is positive. Any push you can make on police reform -- on asserting civilian control -- and on the issue of compensation for expropriated property of U.S. citizens. Anything you can do on these fronts will be a big help. Jim Baker is at the White House. He is still very interested in this problem. We will keep pushing on Helms to free this up. (Ø)

President Chamorro: Well, that's fine. I want to thank you so much for what you have said. All the things you mentioned, we are working on them. Say hello to your new campaign manager at the White House. I hope by September 30th we will have good news for Nicaragua. Say hello to Barbara. It's always so nice to see her. How is she? (Ø)

The President: She is wonderful. I'll meet her in Columbus (Ohio) soon. One last thing Violeta before I go, how is Marcos? (Ø)

President Chamorro: He is wonderful, wonderful -- doing beautifully. Do you hear me George? I am speaking English. I'm learning English. How is my English? (Ø)

The President: Your English is perfect -- beautiful, just like the woman speaking it. Your English is pretty damn good. (Ø)

President Chamorro: Thank you. Please call me on the 30th of September. (Ø)

The President: Good night. (U)

President Chamorro: Good bye. (U)

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