

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the Federal Republic of Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor
Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff (Notetaker)
Gisela Marcuse (Interpreter)

DATE, TIME: May 30, 1990, 7:34 - 7:43 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office (C)

The President: Helmut! (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good morning! How are you? (U)

The President: I am getting ready for the big visit. I am glad to hear your voice. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: That is why I am calling. I wanted to exchange views for a couple of minutes. One thing, George: you can rely on our fullest support. I acknowledge very much what you have done for us and appreciate your friendship and reliability. One thing that is very important for Gorbachev to understand is that irrespective of developments, we will stand side by side. And one sign of this cooperation are the links between us by the future membership of a united Germany in NATO without any limitations. You should make this clear to him, but in a friendly way, and also make it clear that is the view I hold. There should be no doubt about that. A second point: we can find a sensible economic arrangement with him. He needs help very much. He should also know that we have no intention of profiting from his weakness. A final point: it is of immense importance that we make further progress in disarmament. (C)

The President: I appreciate your comments very much. On the German Question, as it is called, I don't expect much breakthrough. I won't change my views, but I will assure him we are side by side. We will lay out our views on the Two Plus Four, including the need to terminate Four Power rights at the time of unification, with no new constraints on German sovereignty. We want him to come out feeling he has had a good Summit, even though there are no major breakthroughs. I think we can do it. We have a wide range of agreements to sign. On the economic side, I remember your private conversation with me. Subsequently, that has been raised, with Jim Baker. We have problems with that, related to Lithuania. But I will take your advice. I don't want him to think we are taking advantage of him

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because of his weakness. We will move the arms control agenda forward, but he must realize that on conventional forces, those are Alliance decisions. We can talk about this in general terms, but on matters like the levels of German forces, beyond those already on the table, we cannot make commitments. We really appreciated your offer to help on levels of the Bundeswehr, but we feel it is a little premature. Brent Scowcroft has gotten to Horst Teltschik on that. But it was a very generous offer on your part. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: George, to make this very clear: the wind blew some rumors my way, and I instructed Teltschik to approach Brent Scowcroft. I said we can discuss everything, but we have to agree beforehand before we reach agreement. Nothing is going to change on that. You can rely on it. (C)

The President: Good. I think we are up to date. I look forward to seeing you next week. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I am very much looking forward to it. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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