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16. Memcon	Re: Meeting with Prime Minister Brundtland of Norway (5 pp.)	6/7/92	(b)(1)	C

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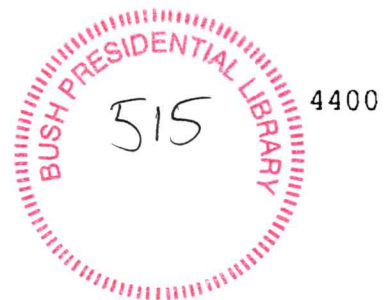
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prime Minister Brundtland of Norway (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Arnold Kanter, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
Mary Ryan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Canadian Affairs
Robert Hutchings, Director, European Affairs, NSC Staff

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SCS 3/1/11

Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister
Kjeld Vibe, Ambassador
Svein Roald Hansen, State Secretary
Morten Wetland, Director General

DATE, TIME June 7, 1992, 10:46 - 11:21 am
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

(Continuing discussion begun during press availability about the Rio conference)

Prime Minister Brundtland: It is a big event and is off to a good start. The UN Secretary General gave a good statement. I had a nice talk with him. (U)

The President: A bilat ? (U)

Prime Minister Brundtland: It turned out to be. (U)

The President: I wondered how the schedule works down there. (U)

Prime Minister Brundtland: I went over the main issues in my remarks. What we feel is there is a combination of responsibilities to explain how we got where we are. There are non-sustainable patterns of consumption which we have to change, partly by technology. That's why we are changing our approach to nonrenewable resources. I know you are not happy about the CO2 tax, but I think a working taxation system could be made responsible. It could be used to discourage the wasteful use of resources. (Ø)

The President: We've got a different system. Our states primarily depend on taxing hydrocarbons, such as gas, to meet their budgets. The Federal government also taxes. I am very sensitive to the shortage of funds our states have and therefore

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very reluctant to add to the hydrocarbon tax. We think alternative sources are a better answer. We think technology is a better answer. Of course I am burdened with an economy in difficult shape. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: I see that. That's why I'm discussing that on a long-term basis. After the election year here, and when your economy is doing better, then we can consider a taxation system to provide economic incentives and disincentives. (C)

The President: I can't argue your fundamental point. (U)

Prime Minister Brundtland: This is the kind of thing we are doing in Norway. We have a \$20 per barrel tax on fuel oil. (C)

The President: \$20 per barrel? A barrel of Texas crude sells for \$18 to \$20. So you are doubling it? (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: This is for domestic use; it is a consumption tax. It is also an incentive for Norwegians to buy smaller cars. (U)

The President: How do they feel about nuclear power? (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: We have electricity based on water power, so we don't need nuclear. With the infrastructure required, it would not be a good idea for such a small country. But everyone uses fossil fuels, and we have to realize consumption and production patterns must change. With research we can change to alternative sources. (C)

The President: We are putting a fair amount into battery technology. I was driving around in an electric car the other day; this has enormous promise. We are also working on ethanol and methanol and also natural gas, of which we have an enormous amount. A lot of environmentalists say wind power has a lot of possibilities, but solar seems to have better potential. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: Economies can grow in an environmentally responsible way. Japan and Germany, for example, have become more efficient, and their economies are growing. The other issue I raised in my opening statement was financing. The developing world is combining its resources, but additional financing has to come from the OECD states. The initiative by former Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita is a good one. In the meeting he referred to a target of .7 of GDP to be met in the 1990's. This would be needed to have Agenda 21 implemented and provide basic sanitation, health and sustainable development. The bill would not be enormous in the long term. Norway is at 1.1 today. The OECD average is .34. To go from .34 up to .7 in the 1990's is achievable. We should try in 1993 to reach a level of \$10 billion to try to implement Agenda 21. (C)

The President: How did you handle GEF? (C)

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Prime Minister Brundtland: Norway's position is to build on that. We need a forum for those in the Convention to have a say in how the money is used. I think it is workable. We can find a compromise. I also addressed the population question. We are burdening the carrying capacity of the globe. (b)(1)

(C)

The President: Let me tell you something you don't know. We are spending more on family planning than ever before. I don't like the UN approach, (b)(1)

(b)(1) but for international family planning our administration is spending more on AID than ever before. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: I think, Mr. President, it is possible to improve the text of conference without coming close to what you are talking about. The fight against poverty is also part of the issue. (C)

The President: When I was at the UN I argued the same thing. The developing countries, said don't tell us about family planning. Their view was, more population means more production. They think we're trying to assign them to a lower level of growth. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: Attitudes are changing. (U)

The President: Let me raise another subject. We normally don't spy on Prime Ministers from friendly countries, but we made an exception in your case. We had a spy -- the wife of one of our colleagues -- in the audience when you spoke at Harvard. She said you were very well received. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: I spoke about the challenge to democracy of technological changes and how we need to widen and deepen our democratic strength, including across borders. The reference in the Gettysburg address to accountability presupposes that leaders are in control of events. But leaders are not in control anymore because the world is too interdependent. We are at the crossroads of democratic accountability. Therefore we need an improved, gradual global governmental element so we can tell people what we have done with other countries. You have spoken about a new world order. I said we need collective engagement to mobilize the forces of democracy. I also took up the question of population growth and women. In developing countries, women are patronized. They are not given access to family planning services. (C)

The President: Your speech got a positive response in the New York press. (U)

Prime Minister Brundtland: I am glad. It is the kind of speech one thinks over for years. (U)

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The President: We have been following the Danish referendum. What do you think about it? (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland:

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

The President: Will they have another referendum? (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: Some politicians think so, but they will be careful. (U)

The President: Did the vote break down by parties? (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: Not really. The extreme left and extreme right make trouble, but the conservative and labor parties are behind unification. As you saw in the UK, Mrs. Thatcher represents the extreme opposition to Major on the right of his party. This makes it difficult for center, but it is good that there is bipartisan support. (C)

The President: I have to break off soon to meet the Russian Ambassador to talk about the Yeltsin visit. It is a complex question -- how to help him move toward democracy and market reform. The IMF is pushing him harder. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: One should probably listen to the person who has to actually make the decisions. (C)

The President: But how far to push? If they don't go far enough, the \$24 billion disappears. We want to help, but it is not an easy sell for the American people. (C)

Prime Minister Brundtland: Senator Mitchell says that 80-90% of his constituents are opposed. (C)

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The President: Yes. We are resisting but it is not easy. (U)

Prime Minister Brundtland: You have to; world leadership has to be focused from Washington. (U)

General Scowcroft: Your speaking out on this is very important. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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