

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call with Prime Minister Felipe
Gonzalez of SpainPARTICIPANTS: The President
Notetaker: Adrian Basora, Director for
European Economic Affairs, NSC
Translator: Humberto Charneco, State
Department

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez

DATE: May 10, 1989
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 1:36-1:46 p.m.

The President said he was calling to express his appreciation of Gonzalez' effort to contact Noriega in Panama. He understood that Gonzalez never got through directly, but did get word to him through an emissary.

Prime Minister Gonzalez said he wanted to clarify what had happened so far. He sent an emissary to see Noriega on Monday after he attempted to communicate with him directly and was unable to. On Tuesday, they had talked, and Noriega said he was consulting with the State Council (*Consejo de Estado*) and that he would provide his response through the Spanish emissary. So far there was no response.

The President said that in the U.S. there was considerable interest in Panama and there is a growing urgency to do something. If Noriega had stepped down the U.S. would have immediately moved to normalize relations. A package of steps was being considered which the U.S. would feel obligated to take unless Noriega took some action. Nothing would be done in Panama in the next few hours, but he wanted Prime Minister Gonzalez to know that the U.S. was soon going to need to take some steps. The President appreciated Prime Minister Gonzalez' efforts and those of President Perez, with whom he had also talked. The President asked whether, if Noriega refused to recognize the will of the people, Prime Minister Gonzalez could get others in Europe to speak out.

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Prime Minister Gonzalez said he was working with the European Community and with the Group of Seven. He was in contact with Carlos Andres Perez, and they were both attempting to put pressure on Noriega in Latin America as well as via the European Community.

Prime Minister Gonzalez continued that he could insist on a response right away but he believed that another 24-hours should elapse first to provide Noriega time to reconsider.

The President agreed and asked if the Group of Eight was still considering recognizing Endara.

Prime Minister Gonzalez said that Venezuela had proposed this but Perez did not know the final outcome; at least one country did not support the idea.

The President emphasized that he wanted to stay in touch and that he appreciated Prime Minister Gonzalez' efforts.

Prime Minister Gonzalez reiterated that they were in agreement; and would wait another 24 hours and keep communication lines open.

The President agreed.

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