

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Virgilio Barco of Colombia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Virgilio Barco of Colombia
Notetaker: Everett Briggs

DATE, TIME: September 26, 1989, 8:45 - 8:52 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Washington/Bogota

The President initiated a telephone call to President Virgilio Barco. The conversation took place in English.

The President: How are you this morning?

President Barco: I'm glad to hear you.

The President: Your embassy here thought we were cut off yesterday. I had finished, but wondered if you had any additional items to raise.

President Barco: I'm very interested in accepting a request from several congressmen to meet with them, to support your war on drugs. I don't know if you could help with this. Maybe if the White House showed interest in my having such a meeting, I could do so. I know you are probably busy today. I'd make a 15-minute speech.

The President: Which senators? The more contact you have the better. But do you mean a joint session of Congress, or what?

President Barco: Yes, but I'm not sure if it is with all of them, or just the leaders.

The President: Why don't you let my office know, and we'll be glad to help.

President Barco: How is the best way to do it?

The President: Through our ambassador there, or through your ambassador here. When you have the names you could have someone call Bob Gates.

President Barco: I think it would be very useful to talk to Congress.

The President: We'd encourage that. The problem is a joint session is sort of formal, and I don't even know if they will be meeting when you're here. But have your assistant call Bob Gates.

President Barco: Maybe with the heads of committee?

The President: That's easy. We'll work closely with your embassy. We'd like that.

President Barco: I'll do it early this morning.

The President: I'm looking forward to seeing you - Thursday evening.

President Barco: I'm arriving tomorrow. I believe it would be useful if we asked Gates which persons will be at the meeting so I can bring their counterparts.

The President: When you call Gates he'll have the list. I can tell you that Governor Sununu will be there, and the National Security Adviser, General Scowcroft. I don't know whether our ambassador will be there, if he comes up. I expect he will. I'll invite Secretary of State Baker. I'm not sure he will be in town, but if he is, he'll attend; and maybe a couple of experts from the NSC and State.

The President: We might step into a separate room by ourselves for a moment. You know, I'll see you in the Residence, which is a nice place to meet. Something sort of special.

President Barco: Thank you.

The President: I'm looking forward to seeing you!

President Barco: Thanks for your words in your (UN) speech.

The President: We feel very strongly about what you are doing. All Americans feel that way. We're proud of you.

-- End of Conversation --

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