

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Call to Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Ruud Lubbers, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Robert L. Hutchings

DATE, TIME November 25, 1989, 7:52 - 8:00 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Fine. It is good to hear your voice.
(U)

The President: I am just calling to tell you I am off to Malta soon and that I will be going to Brussels afterwards. I wanted to get your advice. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: We had a good meeting with our European colleagues in Paris. The atmosphere was very positive. Gorbachev is in favor of development toward democracy in central and eastern Europe. I have a feeling we should not be talking about national boundaries, which should be respected. We should also avoid talk of the German problem. Everyone agrees with that. And we should respect the maintenance of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. (C)

The President: I understand. It is a sensitive point. (C)

Prime Minister Lubbers: We can work together in the economic field with Eastern Europe. There are certain forms of association, including trade and special privileges. This is very important, George. To the extent that capital from other countries goes there with the possibility to export to the European market, it will be more attractive to investors. The IMF is moving to certain conclusions in this regard. Finally, we should be ready with credits and aid in the wintertime. You asked my advice. Make this a European project for Gorbachev and you. (C)

The President: I think we can move in that direction. It is understandable that we not project the German Question, but at some point one of these countries will say we do not want to be in the Pact. (C)

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Prime Minister Lubbers: I don't expect that to happen soon. There may be a chance for a Finnish pattern, but this is not a point for us to raise. Poland and Hungary need to know that for stronger economic cooperation and even integration with the EC, they do not have to leave the Pact. I talked with President Mitterrand two days ago. We believe it is better not to accept Austria as a full member but rather with some form of association. This would show that the same is possible also for Eastern Europe. It is in the interest of the West to sustain Gorbachev in his liberalization. I don't see much advantage in East European countries leaving the Warsaw Pact. If they do, they should go a way different from Western Europe, perhaps like Finland or Austria. It is their right to decide, but we should let them know that all forms of cooperation are possible even without their leaving the Warsaw Pact. (C)

The President: We cannot be publicly positioned as opposing their leaving the Warsaw Pact. (C)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Yes. (U)

The President: These are interesting times, aren't they? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Absolutely. (U)

The President: Congratulations on forming your new government. Are you happy with it? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Yes. It is a new situation, though. (U)

The President: Will you be able to go to Brussels? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Yes, of course. I will see you there. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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