

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONDECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

2012-1479-MR

5/27/2016 MM

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Call to Prime Minister Jan P. Syse of Norway (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Jan P. Syse, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Robert L. Hutchings

DATE, TIME November 27, 1989, 12:56 - 1:00 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: Mr. Prime Minister, how are you? (U)

Prime Minister Syse: Fine. How are you? (U)

The President: I am checking with our NATO allies and looking forward to the Malta meeting. I am going to Brussels December 4 and wonder if you have any words of wisdom. (U)

Prime Minister Syse: Words of wisdom? I don't know about that. Perhaps some questions. I welcome your idea of going to Brussels. May I raise one matter of special concern to us? Gorbachev, in Helsinki, talked about arms control at sea. This is a dangerous idea. We should not weaken the sea lanes to the Atlantic. There has been a constant Soviet buildup in the north. New offensive capabilities are being added. I would ask you to consider this special question and encourage Gorbachev to start cutting down naval forces up north as he has done in the Baltic. (U)

The President: I will be glad to do it. He has pressed us for naval reductions, but we are disinclined to do so. You make a good point of the need for cutting down Soviet forces up north. I will be glad to raise this point. I look forward to our meeting on December 4. I think Malta will be a good meeting. There has been so much euphoria that it may be hard to live up to that. The meeting is not meant to be a major summit. I want to hear his views, including on economic issues. I want to help him and know our allies do, too. It is important to keep the allies together. (U)

Prime Minister Syse: I agree. Also in Eastern Europe it is important to help. (U)

The President: I look forward to seeing you, and I look forward to a good Malta meeting. The changes are wonderful in Eastern Europe, but there is still a need for prudence. I look forward to seeing you in Brussels. (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
- 2 -

Prime Minister Syse: I look forward to meeting you. Thank you
for calling me. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
1999-0273-F

CITATION MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection:	George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin:	National Security Council
Series:	Hutchings, Robert L., Files
Subseries:	Country Files

OA/ID Number:	CF01410
Folder ID Number:	CF01410-004

Folder Title:
Malta Summit
