

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1559

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED

2000-0429-F
JL 8/21/09

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone conversation with President Oscar
Arias of Costa Rica (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica
Interpreter: Stephanie van Reigersberg
Notetaker: Donald C. Johnson

DATE, TIME February 26, 1990, 6:35 - 6:38pm EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned President Arias concerning the
results of the Nicaraguan elections. (U)

The President: Hello, how are you? (U)

President Arias: I'm very well. (U)

The President: I want to tell you that UNO's victory is also
your victory and a victory for the peace process. I want to
salute your support for the electoral process, which was clearly
decisive. (Ø)

President Arias: I appreciate your call. (U)

The President: I have sent a message of congratulations to
Violeta Chamorro. I feel the transition will be peaceful.
President Perez of Venezuela told me that he also thinks it will
be peaceful. (Ø)

President Arias: It will be a peaceful transition. Violeta will
have to negotiate many issues with the Sandinistas. But we in
Latin America are used to negotiations of this type. Aylwin has
had to do this in Chile. We can solve the difficulties that may
come up. (Ø)

The President: We'll try to do what we can, and we'll be in
touch with the Europeans to help. I'll try to get Gorbachev on
the same wave length. But there is no need for the contras to be
fighters any more. (Ø)

President Arias: Congratulations to you for what you have
achieved with President Gorbachev. (Ø)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President: We have to keep working with him on this issue.
(Ø)

President Arias: I spoke to Vice President Quayle in San Salvador yesterday and told him that Violeta would win. (Ø)

The President: Yes, he called and told me about his conversation with you. (Ø)

President Arias: I learned a great deal about elections from reading the book entitled The People's Choice, about the Roosevelt-Wilkie presidential race in a small community in Ohio. I was convinced that if the Nicaraguan people were given the chance to vote freely, that they would choose Violeta. So the outcome was no surprise to me. (Ø)

The President: A lot of people here had given up on the opposition's chances in the election because of those damned polling results published in the Washington Post. (Ø)

President Arias: Those polls relied on friends of the Sandinistas. They were cheating. According to polls done by organizations here in Costa Rica, Violeta was going to win by a large margin. (Ø)

The President: I remember you told me that there had been a very good poll for her some months back. (Ø)

President Arias: We made a poll to see who was the most popular politician in Nicaragua, and she won. (Ø)

The President: She's an important symbol, but she will need lots of help and advice. This would be better if it comes from Carlos Andres Perez and you, as you know the area better than we do. But we'll try to do what we can to be helpful. (Ø)

President Arias: Thank you, Mr. President. (U)

The President: Good going. Bye-bye. (U)

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
1999-0393-F; 2000-0429-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: Presidential Telcon Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: CF01731
Folder ID Number: CF01731-014

Folder Title:
[Memorandum of Telephone Conversations (Telcons) - January 1990-July 1990]: February 1990
