

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**MEMCON**

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Salinas of Mexico (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Carlos Salinas de Gortari
Notetaker: David A. Pacelli

DATE, TIME February 26, 1990, 4:50 - 4:57 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico concerning Violeta Chamorro's victory in the Nicaraguan elections. (S)

The President: Hello. (U)

President Salinas: How are you? (U)

The President: Well, I'm fine. It is good to hear your voice. (U)

President Salinas: It is good to hear from you. (U)

The President: I wanted you to know that I received your letter in which it said you were coming up here for a meeting of the Business Council. It was in June, wasn't it? (S)

President Salinas: Yes, certainly. (U)

The President: Is that in Washington, D.C.? (U)

President Salinas: Yes. (U)

The President: Well, I hope you can come early. You can see Barbara and me on Sunday at Camp David. Maybe we can have a little lunch. Or come Monday, if it is more convenient. (S)

President Salinas: Oh, thank you. You are very kind. (U)

The President: Well, we can work out the exact date later. I just wanted you to know that the time is available. Let's talk about it later. (S)

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President Salinas: That is very kind. I am coming to the Business Council meeting to discuss trade and new development in Mexico. (Ø)

The President: The reason I was calling you was Nicaragua. I sent messages to both Ortega and Mrs. Chamorro. I congratulated her on her victory. And I congratulated President Ortega on doing the right thing in accepting the election and saying he would hand over power. (Ø)

President Salinas: I have done the same. I have congratulated Mrs. Chamorro. (Ø)

The President: This is a victory for all Nicaraguans. We are talking also to President Gorbachev and he is urging Castro not to disrupt the election result. He made some sort of public statement. (Ø)

President Salinas: That is very promising. [Not heard.] (Ø)

The President: Go ahead. (U)

President Salinas: I can see a need for a Marshall Plan for all of Central America. The demographic growth in the region is very important, since it is increasing significantly. If there is not enough economic growth to keep up, there will be emigration. They will go to the United States. (Ø)

The President: You have raised an important point. We see the results this morning, and we will see what we can do to help. We are thinking some on this. But you raise an important point about the number of people leaving for the United States if there is not enough economic growth. (Ø)

President Salinas: The Central Americans look to the United States as the source of assistance. It is important that there be enough aid [not heard]. (Ø)

The President: I am still worried about the full transfer of power from the Sandinistas to Mrs. Chamorro on the 25th of April. Losing must be bitter for the Sandinistas. If you and Carlos Andres Perez and other leaders could encourage the Sandinistas to turn over of the military and the whole government, it would be very helpful. I must say, I am encouraging this. (Ø)

President Salinas: Yes, I am doing this. I am encouraging the peaceful transfer of power. (Ø)

The President: Very good. In asking you to do this, I want you to know I will do what I can. But your voice has greater influence with the Latin Americans and all. Any type of thing you can do to help. I will consult with the Congress on economic aid. The West Europeans can help, too. (Ø)

President Salinas: We will do what we can to promote the peaceful transfer of power. (Ø)

The President: I have one other thing. I just wanted to mention that you were very kind to Nick Brady when he was down there in Mexico. (Ø)

President Salinas: The note that you sent me that he delivered was very nice; it was very much appreciated. We had a good visit with Secretary Brady. He deserves a lot of credit for the agreement we reached with the banks. (Ø)

The President: Well, we'll keep plugging on that. On your June meeting, it would be fun to have you at Camp David. You could get to bed early and be ready for your meetings on the next day. Or we could meet at the White House for supper upstairs on Monday. We have a great little dining room upstairs in the residence. Whichever way you go is fine with me, and our people can work out the details. And this is in addition to our regular meeting in the fall, which is still on. (Ø)

President Salinas: Yes, I am most looking forward to it. (Ø)

The President: It ought to be a good one. We'll keep in touch. (U)

President Salinas: OK. Very good. Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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