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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela on November 15, 1991 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela
Interpreter: Stephanie Van Reigersberg
Notetaker: William T. Pryce/Robert B. Morley

DATE, TIME November 15, 1991, 11:17 - 11:29am EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

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

President Perez: I am fine. It is a joy to hear your voice again. (U)

The President: I am delighted to hear from you again. How are things going? (U)

President Perez: There are a lot of problems, but I am optimistic. We both are accused of travelling too much. (U)

President Bush: I agree with you there. (U)

President Perez: I talked to a New York Times correspondent the other day. I argued that if ever anything was justified, it was President Bush's trips. I told the correspondent that you would be criticized by other countries if you did not travel. (U)

President Bush: Good. That's the way I feel. I am going to do the Asia trip. I'm just trying to get Congress out of town first. There are just too many things going on that need attention. (C)

President Perez: Great. I called you on the following points. First, on Haiti, the report of Ramirez Ocampo was a good one. I am calling Aristide, encouraging him to accept what the Commission says in that report about his behavior. (S)

President Bush: Good. (U)

President Perez: But I believe it is still necessary to exert pressure on Haiti and the people there to come to terms with their problems. They must make concessions too. (S)

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President Bush: I'm in agreement, but the situation is more complicated than it seemed at the outset, in view of Aristide's changed standing in Haiti. (S)

President Perez: The Commission says Aristide remains immensely popular in Haiti, but we must take into account the fears many have about his return, especially in the army. (S)

President Bush: Yes, I agree. (U)

President Perez: I will continue to work on this, and have contacts with people connected with the Haitian Armed Forces. I have the clear perception Aristide is aware of the mistakes he has made in the past. (S)

President Bush: That is encouraging. I hope this means he will work to correct them. (S)

President Perez: On another subject, I was very glad to hear that you had accepted the invitation to participate in a meeting with the Andean countries plus Mexico in February. We have to nail down the dates. (C)

President Bush: Yes, we will try to make constructive suggestions on this. We consider the drug summit very important. (C)

President Perez: That is what I wanted to say. I wanted to say also that we ought to create a working group right now so when the meeting occurs, we can have concrete ideas to consider. (C)

President Bush: That is good. We are definitely enthusiastic about the meeting. I look forward to seeing you again. (C)

President Perez: Also, we have an agreement with the United States Navy to install radars here, and are doing all we can to facilitate our joint efforts to control the drug traffic. We have also signed an agreement on shipboarding on the high seas. (C)

President Bush: Sounds good. Sounds like we are making progress, in spite of the problems we had at first. (C)

President Perez: I think so too, and want to keep working together. (C)

President Bush: We certainly want to do that. (U)

President Perez: On another topic, we are really happy about developments in the El Salvador talks and think the decision taken by the FMLN on a ceasefire is very important. We should now exert pressure to reach a definitive agreement. We are even using a sentimental argument with our Latin colleagues, that we should let (UN Secretary General) Perez de Cuellar have one last triumph before he leaves office at the end of the year. (S)

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President Bush: That is a very nice idea. By the way, I wanted to mention that Argentine President Menem is here on a visit. He is making a very good impression on people up here. He is an impressive person. (S)

President Perez: I think so too. After some impulsive moves at first, he is now headed in the right direction, and has been showing firmness. (S)

President Bush: Well, thanks so much for calling. It was good to hear your voice again. Thanks for checking in. (U)

President Perez: One last thing. I had a call from Violetta Chamorra. Her grandson (Claudia's son) has leukemia and is at Shelton Hospital in Houston. He needs a bone marrow transplant. It costs \$250,000. I understand that there is a law allowing the United States Government to assist chiefs of state and their children in such matters. I wonder if there is a way to cover grandchildren. (S)

President Bush: Let me see what we can do. I have heard about the child. But I have never heard of Shelton Hospital in Houston. Are you sure you have the right name? (S)

President Perez: Children's Hospital. It is Children's Hospital. (S)

President Bush: Oh, yes, that is an excellent hospital. I don't know off the top of my head anything about the program you mentioned. I will check it out immediately. (S)

President Perez: Thank you. One last thing. I want to congratulate you effusively for your success in bringing about the meetings in Spain. I think Baker and your whole team did a good job. It was an impressive feat. Although nothing specific resulted, it was a good start. (S)

President Bush: Thank you very much. Spain did a good job as well, and we hope something comes of it. (S)

President Perez: Un grand abbraccio. See you soon. (U)

President Bush: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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