



Office of the Ambassador

Embassy of the United States of America

Lisbon, Portugal

March 15, 2000

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3-24-00

To NSC for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

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Ms. Nancy V. Hernreich
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Director of Oval Office Operations
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Nancy:

Secretary Albright has told me how much the President dislikes checklist U.S.-EU summits.

He might consider the enclosed suggestion about the summit made to the Secretary and me by Prime Minister Guterres to be of interest.

Susan and I both hope you will accompany the President in June.

Sincerely,

Gerald S. McGowan
Ambassador

Enclosures: as stated



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The President
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Susan and I are certainly looking forward to your visit to Portugal June 3-6 for the U.S.-EU summit. I doubt if you will find a more lovely country in all of Europe, and we both hope that you will be able to see more than just Lisbon while you are here.

As you may know, Secretary Albright was here last week for the EU-U.S. Ministerial. I hosted a small dinner for Prime Minister Guterres, the Foreign Minister and the Secretary. Among other things we talked extensively about the upcoming U.S.-EU summit, and it is clear that the Prime Minister is very interested in making this a non-traditional U.S.-EU summit.

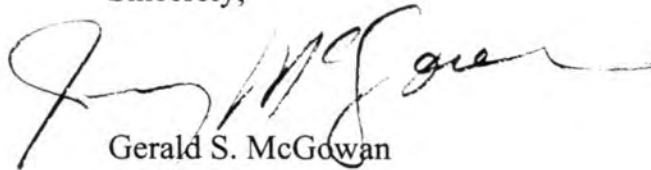
His idea was the summit should be a positive forum to discuss issues relevant to the 21st century. Some of the examples he gave were: how to deal with humanitarian interventions; how to tackle challenges of instability after a humanitarian intervention (e.g. Kosovo and East Timor); an international penal code for dealing with leaders like Milosevic; reform of the Bretton Woods institutions and/or identify a future-oriented U.S.-EU project which the French would be willing to pursue during their Presidency (e.g. cooperation on HIV/AIDS/malaria in Africa).

I think this approach could be far more interesting and relevant than the usual talking points negotiation about bananas or beef hormones. I also think because of your relationship with Mr. Guterres, divisive political and trade issues could be dealt with at the ministerial level, and the first U.S.-EU Summit of the century could focus on a positive agenda.

I believe that this penultimate summit in your Presidency would also be a good opportunity to review the progress and the accomplishments in the last eight years in the U.S.-EU relationship which by every standard is the most important relationship in the world.

We are all looking forward to your first ever visit to Portugal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. McGowan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerald S. McGowan
Ambassador