

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Secretary General Javier Solana
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Secretary General Javier Solana

Notetaker: Bonnie Glick, Jenny McGee,
Miles Murphy, James Smith

DATE, TIME March 25, 1999, 2:19 - 2:25 p.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Secretary General Solana: Hello? (U)

The President: Hello, Javier? (U)

Secretary General Solana: Mr. President, how are you? (U)

The President: How are you? (U)

Secretary General Solana: Fine. Thank you very much.
Everything is holding up here very well. (U)

The President: Well, the first day went well. (S)

Secretary General Solana: All the information I have is very
positive. You have received a briefing, I saw on television.
Impacts and all that. (S)

The President: Yes. (U)

Secretary General Solana: I think the first day has been a
success. I don't have anything confirmed, but some of the
allies, Italy and Greece in particular, but I think we'll hold
them together. (S)

The President: I think you have more influence on them than I
do. I made the best case I could to the American people but my
concern is that if there is a pause between Phase I and

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Reason: 1.5 (a), (d)

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Phase II, Milosevic will clearly doubt our will to continue. Even Chirac told me, and he has been ... on a pause, "I'm only for this pause for one night and two full days to work and only if Milosevic agrees to cease all offensive action." Which of course, he has not done. (S)

Secretary General Solana: Do you see he has broken diplomatic relations? There's that note. I think we have to continue to maintain the solidarity among the countries and go ahead. (S)

The President: Yes. What about our efforts to reassure front-line countries? (S)

Secretary General Solana: I'll take care of that. I have reassured them. I talk to them just about every day. I heard from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defense from Albania. This afternoon I talked to the Albanian Prime Minister and Gligorov this morning for 45 minutes, almost one hour on the phone. It will not be a problem. They are very nervous, but we try to keep them in good contact and good shape. We have to do it every day but it is worth it. (S)

The President: What about Russia? (S)

Secretary General Solana: Well, Russia is a tricky problem we have. My impression is that they don't want to get isolated. So the fact that in the Security Council they were isolated yesterday. My report is that Primakov is not happy with that situation, so they have to play it inside in a manner not to break the chance of communicating. From Brussels, they have withdrawn their military representative but the Ambassador is staying. I received him last night and he is going to stay. I keep talking to him. I tried to do my best to maintain the channels open. This suggestion by Yeltsin for a Contact Group meeting, I don't know how it will be taken. I saw that D'Alema said it would be a good idea and Minister Vedrine of France said that, too. I don't know if this is going to grow or not but we have to do our best to maintain channels with Russia. We have invested a lot, we have a good avenue, but it is true that we cannot consider this. (S)

The President: Yes, I agree. You've got the key on the second phase? (C)

Secretary General Solana: Yes, the second phase will be on consultations after General Clark thinks it is necessary. He has to convey to me that he needs it, then I take a brief

consultation mechanism, much as the first, and put it in at his disposal. (S)

The President: I think the key is if Milosevic hasn't stopped the military aggression, we have to push ahead. (S)

Secretary General Solana: Yes. (U)

The President: We are working with the Russians and may find a way to put this back on track. (S)

Secretary General Solana: That is very good. That will relax some of the Europeans too. Something we have to keep in mind is that next week is Holy Week for the Catholic countries and it may be a complication. The week before Easter for the Catholic countries, from next Wednesday is very complicated -- festivities. We have to keep that in mind to make our calendar. (S)

The President: Yes. I will talk to our people about that. I don't know if anyone has considered that. We need to keep that in mind in terms of challenging him. It's not the Orthodox -- (S)

Secretary General Solana: First is the Catholic, then the Orthodox. For the Greeks it will be difficult. I imagine the Pope will say something during Holy Week, so we have to take care to have much of the work done before -- (S)

The President: Got it. Well, thank you very much. (U)

Secretary General Solana: Mr. President, all the best and good luck. I saw you on television and it was a great success. Are you happy with it? (S)

The President: Yes. Now, this is not a happy thing. (S)

Secretary General Solana: Yes, yes. I mean happy with the reaction of the American people. (S)

The President: Oh, yes. They've been very good. (S)

Secretary General Solana: Well, thank you very much for calling and we'll keep in touch. Goodbye. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --