

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 25, 1999

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Kosovar Leader Hashim Thaci

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Kosovar Leader Hashim Thaci

Interpreter: Lindita Imami
Notetaker: Lindita Imami

DATE, TIME June 20, 1999, 6:30 - 6:40 p.m.
PLACE: Hyatt Hotel, Cologne, Germany

The President: Congratulations on the signing of the agreement for the demilitarization and transformation of the KLA. I am very pleased it happened on the same day that the Serb forces completed their withdrawal from Kosovo.

Kosovar Leader Thaci: Thank you. It is an honor that you are congratulating us on KLA's demilitarization and transformation. This is also your success. For us it has been a compromise for the sake of working towards peace and stability in Kosovo and the region.

The President: I know. And I am grateful for this. I can assure you that we will fully cooperate to bring security, a local police force and true self-government for the people of Kosovo. This is a very important day for Kosovo. I am very pleased that we have managed to change the course of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Kosovar Leader Thaci: This process is also due to your efforts. We have in the past been committed and will continue to be committed to the peace process. We can guarantee that we will respect human rights, and minority rights in Kosovo. We are committed to bringing freedom, peace and democracy to all ethnic groups in Kosovo. We will also work for a free and open economy. Our conversation today will also be an incentive towards these goals.

The President: Your statement about respecting human rights and minority rights is very important. After the suffering of the people of Kosovo, for you to take the lead on these issues means to prove to everyone that our plight is just. Milosevic is not like the others. We will have a good future. I look forward to meeting you and I admire your leadership.

Kosovar Leader Thaci: Thank you Mr. President. The new battle awaiting us now is the return of refugees, reconstruction, the establishment of a civil society and holding free and pluralistic elections. And we will do this through our mechanisms but also with your help and support. I wish you good health and success in both your life and work.

The President: Thank you. Good bye.

-- End of Conversation --

