

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with German Chancellor Schroeder (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor SchroederInterpreter: Brigitta Richman
Notetakers: Sean Tarver, Robin Rickard,
Bonnie Glick, Miles Murphy and Joel
SchraderDATE, TIME March 21, 1999, 5:51 - 6:01 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Camp David, MarylandThe President: Hello. Thank you for taking the call. (U)Chancellor Schroeder: I did it gladly, because I think it is important. (U)The President: Well, I think you probably know this, but Dick Holbrooke is going to see Milosevic one final time tomorrow.
(C)Chancellor Schroeder: Well, I think that is correct and hope Milosevic will change his course. But I am pessimistic. (C)The President: Yes, I am too. And if he doesn't, I think NATO must be prepared to act. (C)Chancellor Schroeder: Yes, this is also my assessment, and our analysis here. Therefore, I agree. But I have one request. I have a political request that during the entire phase of the operations we stay in close consultation because I have to justify my actions to the Cabinet and to the other political parties. I mean, an informal consultation, not a formal consultation. (C)The President: I agree. I think it's important we talk together a lot since this may not be easy and free from~~SECRET~~Reason: 1.5(a,b,d)
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controversy. We have to demonstrate that we are working together closely. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: Yes, and other than that, I fully agree with your assessment. Well, I want to make one more comment that it is important for the public in Europe and I think also there in the United States, to know that we are acting for humanitarian reasons to avoid further humanitarian disasters and not to punish Milosevic or to force him to come to the negotiating table. The center of the argument is that we have to protect people there. We cannot have another 10,000 refugees when there are already 250,000 there. (C)

The President: Yesterday, Milosevic's forces occupied Srbica and created 13,000 refugees and we can't have that again. When Tony Blair and I were talking today, we agreed we have to get all of our people together to make it so that over there we will be avoiding a humanitarian disaster. Milosevic did not put 40,000 troops there for nothing. I think we can all make the same argument. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: I agree with you and my staff person, Mr. Steiner, is available to coordinate our comments to the public and I would imagine that Sandy Berger is going to call him. (C)

The President: Yes, we'll be in close contact. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: Thank you and goodbye. (U)

The President: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --