

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana

PARTICIPANTS: The President
NATO Secretary General Solana

Notetaker: Alexander Vershbow

DATE, TIME: January 12, 1996, 1700 - 1705 EST

AND PLACE: Air Force One en route from Nashville to Aviano

Secretary General Solana: I just returned from Sarajevo and a visit with Tudjman in Zagreb. I am sorry I cannot receive you in the theater as had been my wish, but I understand that logistics made that difficult. (U)

The President: I am very pleased with the work you have done and with your strong support and leadership. (U)

Secretary General Solana: When you arrive in Bosnia you will find a military operation that is going superbly. They are doing fantastic work. Admiral Smith and the others are in very good shape and doing a splendid job. (U)

The President: That's very good. I hope that we can also use this operation to bring NATO closer to Russia. (U)

Secretary General Solana: We are working on that too. I spoke with the Russians, and they have started their deployment today. They will sign their participation agreement in the coming days. Things are going well with the Russians as far as IFOR is concerned. The only problem with the operation is complications with the Serbs in Sarajevo. We need to talk to the Bosnians on how to ease this situation so that we can avoid an exodus by the Serbs. There is also the problem of Eastern Slavonia. You will have an opportunity to talk to Tudjman. We are trying to get more troops to go there. There is one piece of good news today: the Belgian government approved having Belgian forces stay in

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Eastern Slavonia. We now have to see if we can find some other countries to contribute. (C)

The President: That is great news about the Belgians. (U)

Secretary General Solana: Let me just wish you all the best for your trip. As I said, you will find your troops in very high spirits. They are working superbly. (U)

The President: Thanks again for your leadership. I am looking forward to seeing you in Washington next month. (U)

Secretary General Solana: I am looking forward to that too. I am sorry I could not receive you in Bosnia. (U)

The President: See you soon. Good-bye. (U)

Secretary General Solana: All the best. Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --