

THE WHITE HOUSE

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Helmut Kohl
Present: Alexander Vershbow; Dan Poneman
Notetaker: Anthony Gardner

DATE, TIME March 20, 1995; 4:35-4:50p.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Helmut? Hello. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Bill? I'm happy to hear you. I hope you're all right. (U)

The President: I'm fine. I hope you're well. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes, I'm doing fine after my [knee] operation. I'm walking well again. (U)

The President: I wanted to talk to you about the VE-Day commemorations. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes. (U)

The President: I have decided that I should go to Moscow. Yeltsin has indicated that the Moscow event is not going to be too heavy on the military aspects. He indicated to me why it is important to the Russian people and to him that I be there. The visit will also enable me to have a bilateral with Kuchma on the 10th. On the 11th, I'll fly back to Moscow to be with Yeltsin. Boris has assured me that, on Red Square, there will be a parade of World War II veterans only. I think he understands our concern about the continuing problems in Chechnya, but on balance I still feel I need to go. Unfortunately, the American ceremony on the end of the war is on May 8, the same day as your ceremony in Berlin. I have asked the Vice President to represent me there, as well as to go to London and Paris. I'm very sorry that I can't be with Francois in Paris. My advisers and I think that that I must be in Arlington, especially since I was in Europe last year for all the European events. I would be criticized for not being in Arlington. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Bill, I really do understand. It is imperative that you be in Arlington. If you did not attend, you would be severely criticized. Since you're not going to be in Paris, London or Berlin, it won't be difficult to explain the reason for your absence. If I had to weigh the importance of going to London, Paris and Berlin versus going to Moscow, I would say go to Moscow. As for me, I'll continue to keep an eye on what Yeltsin is actually planning to do. I am still undecided. If it's going to be a martial spectacle, then I won't participate. Things will be clearer the closer we come to the date. (X)

The President: Yeltsin tells me that there will be no uniformed combat troops or tanks taking part, just World War Two veterans who will have a chance to march and be recognized on Red Square. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: I will have to wait and see. It's a good idea that you're going; you're in a different situation. (X)

The President: How do you think Yeltsin is doing? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I think the situation has stabilized. But whether it has stabilized enough is an open question. You and I should have another long talk in a few days. Your visit will enable you to have a positive influence on him. We should do everything we can to have such an influence. I look forward to a longer conversation on that. (X)

The President: If you have a minute, I would also like to talk about North Korea. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes, of course. (U)

The President: I'm trying to keep the negotiations on track. The negotiations have entered a difficult phase, and we need to encourage North Korea to keep to its moratorium. We need your support for the Agreed Framework and for making a financial contribution. South Korea will bear most of the \$4 billion cost of the project; but this depends on whether Japan will make the big contribution it has promised. Japan, in turn, needs wide international support. Canada, Australia and New Zealand have pledged money. I'm trying to get a contribution from South Asian countries and the Gulf States too. I feel strongly about the Agreed Framework; it commits North Korea to full compliance with the IAEA safeguards. Japan cannot give unilateral assistance on political grounds. I'm trying to get as much money as possible for the agreement and hope you can help out. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: Can you send me a list of who is really participating? I mean, not just participating but ready to contribute. (C)

The President: South Korea and Japan are going to contribute the vast majority. We've given North Korea fuel oil to meet their energy needs and are going to give \$22 million next year. Australia has already pledged \$5 million. Canada and New Zealand will contribute less. I hope to get the Arab and Persian Gulf States to contribute. I've especially asked Suharto. But many European countries are waiting for German leadership before they decide what to do. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: For me it is important for domestic policy reasons to want to know concretely who is going to contribute. There are people in this country who suspect that the Japanese won't do anything. (C)

The President: I'll send you a letter with specifics. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Good, thanks. That would be very important for me. (C)

The President: We'll talk soon. Also about Russia. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --