

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7073

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

2015 - 0776 - M (1.17)
7/31/2018 KBH

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Kohl of Germany,
September 1, 1994 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Helmut Kohl
Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse
Notetakers: Julien LeBourgeois/Kevin Wooton

DATE, TIME: September 1, 1994; 7:55 - 8:13am
AND PLACE: Martha's Vineyard

The President: Hello, Helmut? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Hello, Bill. I recognize your voice. How are you? (U)

The President: I'm fine. I'm on vacation, having a good time and getting a little rest. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Please give my regards to your wife. Where are you? (U)

The President: Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Is the water warm enough for swimming? (U)

The President: Yes, but today I am about to play some golf. There is a little rain, but I don't mind playing in the rain. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Actually, you could instead go with me on some election campaign trips to keep in shape. (U)

The President: Well, I wanted to discuss two or three things today, but first to say how sad I am about the death of Manfred Woerner. I have spoken with his wife and I know he was your friend. The U.S. did not have a better friend in Europe. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you for your sympathy. The last year was a cruel one for Manfred. He was very brave. (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President: Now we have a challenge to find a worthy successor. I want to consult closely with you. We have no preferred candidate now, but I would like your thinking before we indicate a preference or make a choice. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes. We can agree on that. We can harmonize our action closely, in a discreet manner. Now we have to wait for all the proposals to be on the table. I think we can agree today to get into immediate contact and coordinate when that is done. (Ø)

The President: I thank you for the letter about illegal trade in nuclear material. I will be replying shortly. I am pleased by Germany's effort with Russia. I will discuss the issue when I meet Yeltsin. We must seek greater cooperation within the West and with the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. I think we should do more and really appreciate receiving your letter. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I have simply told my people here to keep yours informed about any steps or developments. I am willing to send someone over to coordinate with your staff in case this is needed. (Ø)

Yesterday I met with Yeltsin on the occasion of the final withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany and discussed the matter. I tried to impress on him that it is not just one question among many others, but one that can pose a life-threatening danger. And the reputation of Russia and Yeltsin are at stake too. He sees the need for progress, and I think we will be able to get some. (Ø)

The President: It is good to get our experts together. We would be glad to work with someone you send, or we can send a team over to talk with your people about this. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Excellent idea. (U)

The President: One last thing. I am very sorry Al Gore will not be able to come to the Berlin ceremony. I have asked Warren Christopher to replace him. His recent injury is very serious and he is in constant pain. He is going to Cairo to the population conference to set forth our position. We are under attack from the Vatican and, with a large Catholic population, need to make our position clear and advance our interests in this issue. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes. You have my understanding on this, Bill. Please give my regards to Al Gore and wish him a speedy recovery. Things like this happen. They just can't be helped. I am happy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3

Warren Christopher will come. But if I may dare to make a suggestion.... Maybe he could quote from a letter from you. Your visit gave a boost to your popularity here in Europe. A message from you referring to your visit in July.... For me it is important to keep alive the expression of American-German friendship. You did an excellent job of this in July. (U)

The President: Wonderful idea. I will follow up. Well, thank you, Helmut, for taking my call. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Enjoy your holiday, Bill. I will keep my fingers crossed as you see through the things you must. If there is anything I can do to help, call me whether it's early in the morning or late at night. (U)

The President: Thank you. Is the campaign going well?

Chancellor Kohl: Yes, I think so. (U)

The President: Good. That's what I hear. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: The figures are going well, but you know that I am not somebody who believes in figures but in the results at the end of the day. But in general the mood is good and friendly to me personally, especially now in the new laender [provinces] in the east. The job is hard. I still have 96 more speeches to give and you know what that is like. You start hating to hear your own voice say the same thing again and again. Well, please give my regards to your wife and family. (U)

The President: I will. Good-bye. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~