

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Kohl

Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse
Notetakers: David Higgins, Joel Schrader,
Bob Ford, Christi McClellan, Steve Crowder,
Nancy McEldowney

DATE, TIME September 25, 1998, 9:56-10:00 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: Hello, Helmut. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Hi, Bill. I'm happy to hear your voice. I hope you are well. You know I've been frank in letting my opinion be known. (U)

The President: You've been wonderful. I wanted to call to wish you well. I know you're coming up to the last days of the campaign and you're doing great work. I'm thinking about you. Thanks for what you said about my situation, which is getting better. I also want to thank you for your helpful statement on Kosovo. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you for keeping your fingers crossed. It's a hard battle -- a close campaign, a close fight -- but I'm chancellor and it's my job to put up with these things. (U)

The President: I just wanted to tell you I'm thinking about you and thank you for sticking by me. If you need to say I called about Kosovo, that's okay, too. We've got to keep pressure on Milosevic, especially in light of the elections in Serbia and Bosnia. We've got to keep the heat on. I know you'll do that. But basically I wanted to tell you I'm thinking about you. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I totally agree with you. (U)

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Reason: 1.5 (b)

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The President: Well, I know that you need to go back to the campaign; there are no votes on this telephone call. I just wanted to tell you I'm your friend, and thanks. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you very much. Talk to you soon. (U)

The President: Bye, Helmut. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you. (U)

-- End of Conversation --