

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with German Chancellor Schroeder (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Schroeder

Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse
Notetakers: Bonnie Glick, Michael T. Manning,
Roger Merletti, Robin Rickard, Jim Smith and
Sean Tarver

DATE, TIME: April 20, 1999, 12:20 - 12:29 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello? (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: Bill, hello. (U)

The President: Hello, Gerhard. I just called to check in with you on Kosovo. There was great publicity here yesterday on your inaugural Bundestag session. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: The Reichstag. (U)

The President: Yes, it was wonderful. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: It was surprisingly peaceful. (U)

The President: I wanted to check in with you on Kosovo. I had a good talk yesterday with Yeltsin, and Madeleine Albright talked with Ivanov. I think the Russians are trying to come to a point where they can agree with us on a diplomatic strategy. I am feeling pretty good about that, and we'll just have to watch the situation over the next few days. (S)

Chancellor Schroeder: Naturally, I read part of what was said. Part of it was reported, and I think what Yeltsin said for the first time was encouraging, but we must make clear at the Summit

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that we are standing behind our position. The Germans have no problem. (S)

The President: I completely agree with that. In that connection, I think it's important that we keep the air campaign going, and I think we have to hit more and more targets that will have an impact. It appears to me that we are beginning to have an impact. We need to step up the air campaign and tighten economic pressures. We're banning Yugoslavian ships from our ports and tightening restrictions on the export or re-import of goods, and I think it's important to tighten EU sanctions. I hope there will be a ban on financing, public and private projects, and the freezing of funds of the leadership. (S)

Chancellor Schroeder: I totally agree, because it will be impossible to explain to our soldiers why we are still trading with Yugoslavia while they are risking their lives. (S)

The President: I think it is important that, when we meet later at the Summit, we must show unity and determination. If we show we are stepping up pressure on Milosevic, I think we can be quite effective. The only negative I know about the Summit is that Chirac tells me he will leave Saturday afternoon. He said he has a big political problem in Paris. I don't know what to make of that, but I have redone the schedule every day to have a heavy focus on Kosovo while he is here. I think it's important for him to be there. If you talk to him, you might encourage him to stay. (S)

Chancellor Schroeder: Well, concerning that, I agree that it is important that we show we are united within NATO and will do everything within our power to make sure that occurs. I think it's important that, as far as the Summit is concerned, that it become apparent to everyone that NATO is united. On your second concern, I am sorry I cannot do anything to move him to stay, but I think it's important to talk about Kosovo while he is there. I hope we will be able to talk about Kosovo early. (S)

The President: I agree with that. We'll definitely do that. (S)

Chancellor Schroeder: Precisely. If we put the Kosovo debate on the agenda at the earliest point, and looking at the latest schedule, I see that it is scheduled for Friday morning at nine o'clock, then everyone will be there. (S)

The President: Yes. We will discuss it on Thursday but on Friday too, and it is the main order of business on Saturday. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: You mean Friday morning and Saturday? (C)

The President: That is correct, and then Sunday we have a meeting of all the frontline states. I think it will be good, and Chirac will have two opportunities to talk about it. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: Okay. I do look forward to seeing you despite all the problems and will do our best to make sure the Summit ends up a success. (C)

The President: I think it's a good thing that we are meeting. I'll see you then. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: Yes. (U)

The President: I'll see you then. Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --