

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with German Chancellor Schroeder (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Schroeder

Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse
Notetakers: Joel Schrader, Sean Tarve, Amy
Swarm, Elizabeth Rogers, Roger Merletti and
Nicholas Kass

DATE, TIME September 9, 1999, 10:16 - 10:23 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, Gerhard. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: Hello, Bill (U)

The President: I just called to say I've been thinking about
you. I know you had a tough weekend with the elections. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: Unfortunately. (U)

The President: I went through the same thing with the
congressional elections in 1994. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: I will fight. (U)

The President: That's what you have to do. You know when
you're in the middle of a process, and before the benefits are
apparent, and you are trying to do something, you are
vulnerable. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: I know that and would like to thank you
for those kind words. (U)

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The President: Well, I just wanted to encourage you. You are doing the right thing. I've been there -- I had this terrible experience in '94. I felt like I had just died. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: I know, Bill. (U)

The President: And then we were able to show the results and, in the next elections, we were picking up seats. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: We have to act in the same way. (U)

The President: I just felt so bad for you, and just wanted to encourage you. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: Thank you. (U)

The President: I know you had a talk with Habibie yesterday.
(C)

Chancellor Schroeder: Yes. (U)

The President: They just aren't going to ask the U.N. in I guess. But, unless there is some kind of order over there, the United States may have to impose some economic sanctions or something. We can't stand by and let the whole country be destroyed and all those people driven out of East Timor. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: I agree with you totally and, if you have a moment, I would like to tell you what we have done so far. I have spoken to Habibie on the telephone and requested him to make sure the military will protect the people in East Timor. The problem seems to be that Habibie doesn't have sufficient power to get the military to act as a protecting force. I further asked him to agree to the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers; however, he refused, at least at this point in time. I have today spoken to Helmut Kohl, who is friendly with President Habibie, and he agreed to help us. He placed a phone call to Habibie. The phone call has not yet taken place, but it will take place and Mr. Kohl will help. He does have friendly relations with Habibie and will use them. (C)

The President: That's good. I don't know what else we can do except keep working. There may be some more order there today, but I am determined to keep pushing on it. But, I don't think we can get any forces in there without Habibie permitting it.

(C)

Chancellor Schroeder: I agree totally, but perhaps it is possible to exert some economic pressure and make it clear to the military that they risk standing there in total isolation unless they are willing to come to some deal. (C)

The President: Let's just stay after it and, if you have ideas, please let me know. (C)

Chancellor Schroeder: We will do this with pleasure. We will try to use our influence and use the German opposition to bring various things to bear on Habibie. We will do our best and, if there is anything I can do at any time to support you and your policies, I will do so with pleasure. (C)

The President: Thank you. Are you still going to the Third Way Conference in Italy. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: Yes, I will be there. (U)

The President: I will see you there. (U)

Chancellor Schroeder: Thank you for calling. (U)

The President: Goodbye Gerhard. (U)

-- End of Conversation --