

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President-elect Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Aleksander Kwasniewski, President-elect of Poland
Notetaker: Katherine O'Loughlin, Evan Reade and Trey Whitworth

DATE, TIME November 21, 1995, 2:45 - 2:53 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello, Mr. Kwasniewski?

President-elect Kwasniewski: Hello. Yes, I am here.

The President: It's nice to hear your voice. Congratulations.

President-elect Kwasniewski: Thank you Mr. President. I am very happy to talk to you.

The President: I followed your campaign very closely. I appreciated that you advocated democracy, free-market reforms, and healing communist-era division. I also appreciate that you want to pursue good relations with the West, Russia and Ukraine. I am eager to work with you and to keep close cooperation between the U.S. and Poland. I think acting on these themes is the key to working together.

President-elect Kwasniewski: Mr. President, maybe you don't have enough time, but I'd like to congratulate you on Bosnia. It's a big success for Europe and your personal success. Thank you for your words and greeting. I'm sure Poland chose the right direction six years ago and now we should continue those policies. The government that has been in power for the past two years has shown that it can continue this direction and I am confident that this will continue. As President, I would like to be the man who continues all of the reforms started in 1989.

Democracy, free market reforms and Poland's opening to the world are the main task for each President and especially for me. I

want to reaffirm all the statements I made during the campaign: these goals will be very constant in Polish policy. I would like to organize a wide social and political consensus for these goals. I feel your support and best wishes. I think we can do it. This will be a real challenge and chance for Poland.

The President: As you well know, the great task following any election is to keep your supporters but then to reach out to the others and to move together into the future. You are right, Poland's government over the past two years has kept moving in the right direction. There are a lot of young people looking to you to build a future for Poland.

President-elect Kwasniewski: My idea is a big national reconciliation in Poland; this is what Poland needs. This election showed that all these historical divisions are not so important. A lot of young people voted for me which means simply that Poland is becoming more and more normal. I spoke yesterday and said I saw a lot of space for everyone in Poland. My support is a little bit more than 50 percent and I appreciate President Walesa's supporters and President Walesa because he has a strong place in history and in shaping the democratic process in Poland. I appreciate his role. Now my proposal is to work together, more closely than in the past. It is now we must work together to find a common task for Poland.

The President: I very much look forward to working with you to find out how we can be supportive of Poland and build the right kind of future for Poland and deal in the appropriate way with Russia and other countries you must deal with. These are very exciting times.

President-elect Kwasniewski: Our goals in international politics are constant. We want to join NATO and the EU. Thank you for your clever position on these things. I would like to use my presidency to explain that our intentions for Russia and our Europe strategy is not a game or directed against Russia. Our strategy for Russia and for Europe is cooperation.

The President: That's wonderful. That's what I've been trying to tell the Russians for three years. It would be good if you say it too. There are people in Russia who do not wish to dominate their neighbors and they need all the support they can get. I thank you for your comments on Bosnia.

President-elect Kwasniewski: It is good news for Europe.

The President: Yes. Now we have to make it stick and we all have to work to make it successful. Well, I just wanted to say hello, I'm sure you are busy.

President-elect Kwasniewski: Not as busy as the President of the U.S.

The President: Soon you will be.

President-elect Kwasniewski: I know.

The President: I enjoyed working with members of the Polish government and with Polish parliamentary members; I look forward to working with you and meeting with you.

President-elect Kwasniewski: Thank you Mr. President. I will try to have the best relations with the U.S. I respect you. You know we are of the same generation.

The President: You are younger than I am. I just found that out.

President-elect Kwasniewski: That's not bad.

The President: I know.

President-elect Kwasniewski: It's a good sign for the world and it speaks of new prospects.

The President: Thank you very much.

President-elect Kwasniewski: Thank you. All the best once again. Congratulations for the Bosnia agreement. All the best to your wife and I hope to see you.

-- End of Conversation --