

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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PER E.O. 13526

2015-0782-M-1 (1.15)
3/13/2018 KBM

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of
Canada on April 20, 1994 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Jean Chretien
Notetaker: Rick Waddell

DATE, TIME April 20, 1994; 1:50 - 1:58pm
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

Prime Minister Chretien: Hello! How are you? (U)

The President: Fine and you? (U)

Prime Minister Chretien: Fine - the weather's been good. (U)

The President: I wanted to talk to you about Bosnia. The situation around Gorazde threatens the progress we've been making. I'm afraid that the Serbs will be emboldened. I had hoped that the negotiations would succeed, but the Muslims wouldn't agree, and the Serbs sought to win on the ground. So we need to increase our pressure -- military and economic -- on the Serbs to reinforce the diplomatic efforts...So that's why I directed our people to go to the North Atlantic Council and ask that NATO be prepared to take action to protect the safe areas. Also Russia has increased its pressure. I'll be talking to Yeltsin today. They were very upset. If the Serbs don't agree their military targets will be subject to attack. I realize that there is some disagreement on this...but not only the targets specifically firing on a safe area, but also other targets. They got Gorazde for free. I also realize that there are Canadians under threat. (S)

Prime Minister Chretien: Yes, we had two incidents this week -- 16 soldiers taken in one case. We got our troops out, but....I'm not sure that airstrikes without troops on the ground will do anything. The military opinion around me is that it's a waste of effort. (S)

The President: True -- all military leaders admit that airstrikes can't win a war. But we don't want to enter the war with ground troops on side of the government. We have to do

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something...given the conditions. What's your reaction to the proposal to get all the people involved in this together? Yeltsin's been pushing this. My thinking is that you can do this only once. (S)

Prime Minister Chretien: My reaction depends on what the Russians tell you. If they push for it, I don't know what else we could do. If they make it more difficult....My view is that we were lucky in getting our troops out of Srebrenica. The difficulty is that we don't have troops in Gorazde as we did in Srebrenica. Maybe we could get some in Gorazde which would....Let's wait to see what Yeltsin says. (S)

The President: I'll be here all week. (U)

Prime Minister Chretien: I'd like to talk to you tomorrow about bilateral issues. (S)

The President: I'll be here and we can talk about wheat and salmon. (S)

-- End of Conversation --