

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Jacques Chirac of France

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Jacques Chirac

Notetaker: Mary Ann Peters, Katherine O'Loughlin, Matt Miller

DATE, TIME August 7, 1995, 3:17 p.m. - 3:34 p.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello? (U)

President Chirac: Hello, this is Jacques Chirac speaking. How are you doing? (U)

The President: Fine. (U)

President Chirac: Glad to hear you. (U)

The President: I hear you are on vacation. (U)

President Chirac: Yes, one week in southern France. It is very hot. When are you going on vacation? (U)

The President: It's hot here too. Next week I am going to the mountains in Wyoming. (U)

President Chirac: I hope you have a good holiday. Please tell Hillary that as well. I am very worried about the situation in Yugoslavia. (U)

The President: Yes, may I speak for a minute on that? (U)

President Chirac: Yes, will someone translate? (U)

The President: Yes. Before the Croats launched an all-out assault on the Krajina, we urged them to seek a political solution right up to the last minute and warned them of the dangers of wider war. Tudjman clearly had already made up his

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mind. It's not surprising after the Krajina Serb refusal to negotiate for the past four years and their intervention in Bihac. So far Serbia has shown no sign of intervening, according to our intelligence. But 100,000 new refugees and a new Serb desire for revenge make it important that we act quickly to stabilize the situation. It may be a significant moment to launch a new diplomatic initiative, with the arrival of the RRF, the new authority for NATO and the change in the situation on the ground. On the other hand, if we don't press for a settlement in the next few weeks, the situation is likely to unravel again.

(C)

We have been doing more thinking about how to use the new situation to achieve a peace settlement in Bosnia and to negotiate a peaceful resolution in Croatia. I propose that Tony Lake make a trip to Europe later this week to meet with his counterparts in Paris, London and Bonn to work out a common strategy. These talks can also address how we bring the Russians along and how each of us would work with the governments in Sarajevo, Zagreb and Belgrade, as well as with the Bosnian Serbs. We have pretty specific ideas of what we think will work, but we want to discuss them with you. We need to be together on any effort. So I hope Tony will be able to see his French counterpart in the next few days. Let's see where we go. I hope we can reach a common diplomatic effort. (C)

President Chirac: Well, Bill, I agree completely with the necessity for new diplomatic initiatives and the trip of Tony Lake. This is very good. He will be received in Paris. I will continue in French. Mr. President, I'm a little concerned that there is a de facto agreement between the Croats and the Serbs. The purpose of the agreement is to eliminate Bosnia. Therefore, we will face a very serious situation -- the disappearance of Bosnia. In this case we will have strong reactions from the Muslim Contact Group parties. It's a very complicated country. They are savages -- all of them, the Bosnians, Croatians, and Serbs. But in this situation now, I think the Muslims will pay for all of the damages of everybody else. I'm very concerned about the reaction from the large Muslim countries -- Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. We'll see how things evolve. (C)

Our convoys trying to go to Sarajevo are being blocked by the Muslims not the Serbs. This fact shows that there is a part of the Bosnians who are making the situation more difficult. I would also like to say that our reinforcements of heavy artillery for Mt. Igman are being blocked by the Croats at the border and the Croats know these units, once they are on Mt. Igman, can only reach Pale. In spite of that, they are blocking them. I gave orders for them to use force tomorrow. This also shows a special relationship between the Croats and Serbs. (C)

I'm convinced the only man who fully understood the situation was Carl Bildt. I regret two things now. First, we didn't authorize him to see Karadzic. Second, the U.S. didn't give support to the Bildt package. It was a reasonable package. It would have prevented Milosevic from entering the conflict. ~~(C)~~

The President: That is one thing I want to talk to you about through Tony. ~~(C)~~

President Chirac: I think it's urgent we have ideas now on Milosevic. ~~(C)~~

The President: I agree. ~~(C)~~

President Chirac: No problem. We will be glad to talk to Tony Lake. He can come anytime. We'll exchange our views. All of the TV programs today are showing the Serbs leaving Krajina being bombed by the Croats. This is ethnic cleansing on a large scale. France, Germany and the UK have condemned it. The Croat attitude is inadmissible. They are truly savages as are the Serbs. It's not moral to support one side over the other. They are all coming out with ethnic cleansing. I think the U.S. should condemn ethnic cleansing in the Krajina Serb territory. Today, we, the great powers, are accomplices to ethnic cleansing. We'll talk about all of this with Tony. ~~(C)~~

The President: Fine. Good-bye. (U)

President Chirac: Hope you have a good holiday next week. Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --