

SUBJECT

KKS.  
Mr. Stone to glance Encl. type

*[Handwritten initials]*  
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RECORD OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER  
AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ON FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 1977

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 27/77

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Hullo.  
PM Hullo. Is that the President?  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes.  
PM I can hardly hear you. I don't know what the trouble is.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Hullo. Jim Callaghan.  
PM Yes it is.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: This is Giscard D'Estaing.  
PM I can't really hear. I wonder if we can improve the line somehow.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Is it possible for you to call later in the evening?  
PM What time?  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: What time is it for you?  
PM It's now 6.45.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: I would say at 9.45  
PM 9.45 my time? Yes I could call earlier perhaps. About 9.15, 9.30.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: All right. As you like.  
PM All right then.  
Mutual good byes.

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PM Hullo. Mr. President?  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. How are you?  
PM I am very well thank you. How are you?  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Oh I am quite well also. You are in Wales?  
PM Yes I am in Wales and I am afraid the telephone line isn't very good.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. It is better now. May I ask news about Mr. Crosland's health?  
PM He has developed pneumonia and I am afraid there is no prospect of recovery Mr. President at all.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: Oh yes.  
PM I am afraid no prospect and it is really only a matter of time before he goes.  
PRESIDENT GISCARD: It is a painful process?

/PM

PM I am so sorry I couldn't hear.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: It is painful for him?

PM No. He is in a coma. And he has in fact been in a coma since last Sunday night.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Oh yes.

PM So he has lived in this way for a week and really now it will be a merciful release for him.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. Well we are very sorry for you and for him.

PM Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: He is a very fine and distinguished person.

PM He was a colleague and friend of mind for 30 years, and I had a great liking for him and it is a great blow to us.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes it is. I wanted to call you to tell you my thinking about the next meeting with President Carter.

PM The next meeting of the .....

PRESIDENT GISCARD: With President Carter.

PM Yes.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: We - I had the visit of Mondale and an exchange of letters with Carter (?)

PM I am so sorry I couldn't hear.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: And we exchanged letters with Carter and I suggested, with the agreement of Helmut Schmidt, that before the meeting of the Seven we could have a meeting at four with the cover, if we need one, of Berlin, for instance. And it seems to me that this was agreeable to Schmidt and also to the Americans. But of course the initiative should come from you because the invitations should come from you. So I wanted to suggest this to your thinking and see if it is possible that the day before, for an evening or whatever meeting you can suggest, we have this meeting, this first meeting of four.

PM You would prefer this before we start the actual session itself?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes.

PM Yes. Very good. As far as I am concerned there is no difficulty about that. We have to, I think, agree the dates. I don't know what your preference is for dates.

/PRESIDENT GISCARD:

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Well I have no special preferences but what I have heard, the Americans are suggesting 7 and 8 May.

PM Yes. I would be able to do those. But it would be a little more agreeable to me if we did it on the 6th. But I have no particular difficulty about that. Would it be equally convenient for you?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: It would be. Yes.

PM Well let me just see about that because we must try and meet President Carter if we can. He has the furthest to come except for the Japanese Prime Minister.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes.

PM I think he wants to separate it from the NATO meeting doesn't he?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. I think the sequence of events would be first the meeting of the four and if it could be held in a special place, like a kind of private place, perhaps it would be less offensive to others. And then to have the full meeting of the seven for one day or one day and a half, and then after perhaps one day release the NATO meeting.

PM Yes. Would you think that an evening would be sufficient for the meeting of the four?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Well, if it is a long evening because we will have to speak about our relationship with the Soviets, the proliferation issue, I suppose, and some question like Africa and others.

PM It will be a long evening.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: I think so yes.

PM We might - perhaps we ought to try and start at about four o'clock or so.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. If we can join for a cup of tea at four and then stay together till the end of the evening.

PM Yes. Do you think that it would be appropriate to hold it at No. 10?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Well, I think it's just - yes, for - certainly there would be no objection to that. I don't know if it .....

PM It's very private.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: It is very private.

PM You - we can keep the press away you see. There is no difficulty about that.

/PRESIDENT GISCARD:

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Oh I think it's a very - it looks very pleasant and convenient.

PM Yes. Well as it is so small I think we could easily do it there, if that were agreeable to you.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Perfectly.

PM Very good. Now as to our representatives, I had a message, as I suppose you have had, from President Carter.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes.

PM For my part I shall nominate Sir John Hunt.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. Who was in charge of the Rambouillet meeting?

PM Yes. But at Puerto Rico things were a little different. But John Hunt was a member of the group who arranged Rambouillet and he would be very, he is very experienced in all these matters. He is the Secretary to the Cabinet.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. I cannot appoint Mr. Barre this time so I am contemplating to ask Clapier (?) to do the job.

PM Who is that?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Clapier. He is the Governor of the Bank.

PM Clapier. Yes I know Clapier. Very good. Very good.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: He has - he knows well Sir John Hunt.

PM Yes. I was proposing to write to you very shortly now with some proposals for the occasion within the next day or two and I will look at them again in the light of our conversation now.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: I think that you will meet the desire of Helmut and President Carter, if you can arrange for rather a private meeting. /Yes. Very good.

/ PM

PRESIDENT GISCARD: I shall expect your letter now.

PM I have also written to you in response to your letter about the way in which we should conduct the next European Council and I have made a number of propositions there that you will no doubt want to comment on to me and I will be very happy indeed to have them. I am really suggesting the way I think we might try to run it in order to meet your views.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. Yes. So I will answer you. I /have got now

(reticence?)

have got now a reluctance/and they are on the whole encouraging and I think we just have to adjust them together.

PM Yes. We - I agree with what you are proposing and I am just trying to translate it into a practical agenda and arrangements for the next meeting.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes. All right. Well have a nice stay in Wales.

much.

PM Thank you very/ And you? Are you in the country?

PRESIDENT GISCARD: No. I am in Paris now but we are just going for the weekend to the Alps.

PM Oh good.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: So I will leave the ..... and come back for them.

PM Good. Well have a lovely time.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Thank you.

PM It was kind of you to ring me. I was saying this week that I ought to telephone you and we hadn't quite got round to it, with various things happening. But I have missed not speaking to you. Perhaps we must do it a little more frequently.

PRESIDENT GISCARD: Yes I do agree. Well goodbye. I wait for your letter.

PM Au revoir and thank you very much.