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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9448 Add on

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Federal Republic of Germany

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.
The President
Secretary of State George P. Shultz
Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Chief of Staff
Kenneth M. Duberstein, Deputy Chief of Staff
Colin L. Powell, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Assistant Secretary of State Rozanne Ridgway,
Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs
Ambassador Richard R. Burt
Nelson C. Ledsky, Deputy Senior Director,
European and Soviet Affairs, NSC

West Germany
Hans Dietrich-Genscher, Vice Chancellor and
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Dr. Hermann Von Rihthofen, Political
Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Juergen Ruhfus
Heinz Weber, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 21, 1988, 9:45 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Oval Office

During the time that photos were being taken, Foreign Minister Genscher quietly congratulated the President on the successful U.S.-Soviet Summit and on the INF Treaty. The Foreign Minister expressed the hope that the Treaty would be quickly ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Secretary Shultz commented that Foreign Minister Genscher had already spoken on the Hill this morning, supporting the INF Treaty.

Foreign Minister Genscher said he intended to make the same presentation on INF when he gave a press conference later today.

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NLS F75-073 #200

By amp, NARA, Date 11/2/99

The President thanked the Foreign Minister for his complimentary words and acknowledged that gains had clearly been made with the Soviets. At the same time, there was still a lot of unfinished business. The President explained that progress was needed on regional issues. Much more also needed to be done on human rights. It was important that we not forget the Germans or Jews or others in the Soviet Union who sought a better life.

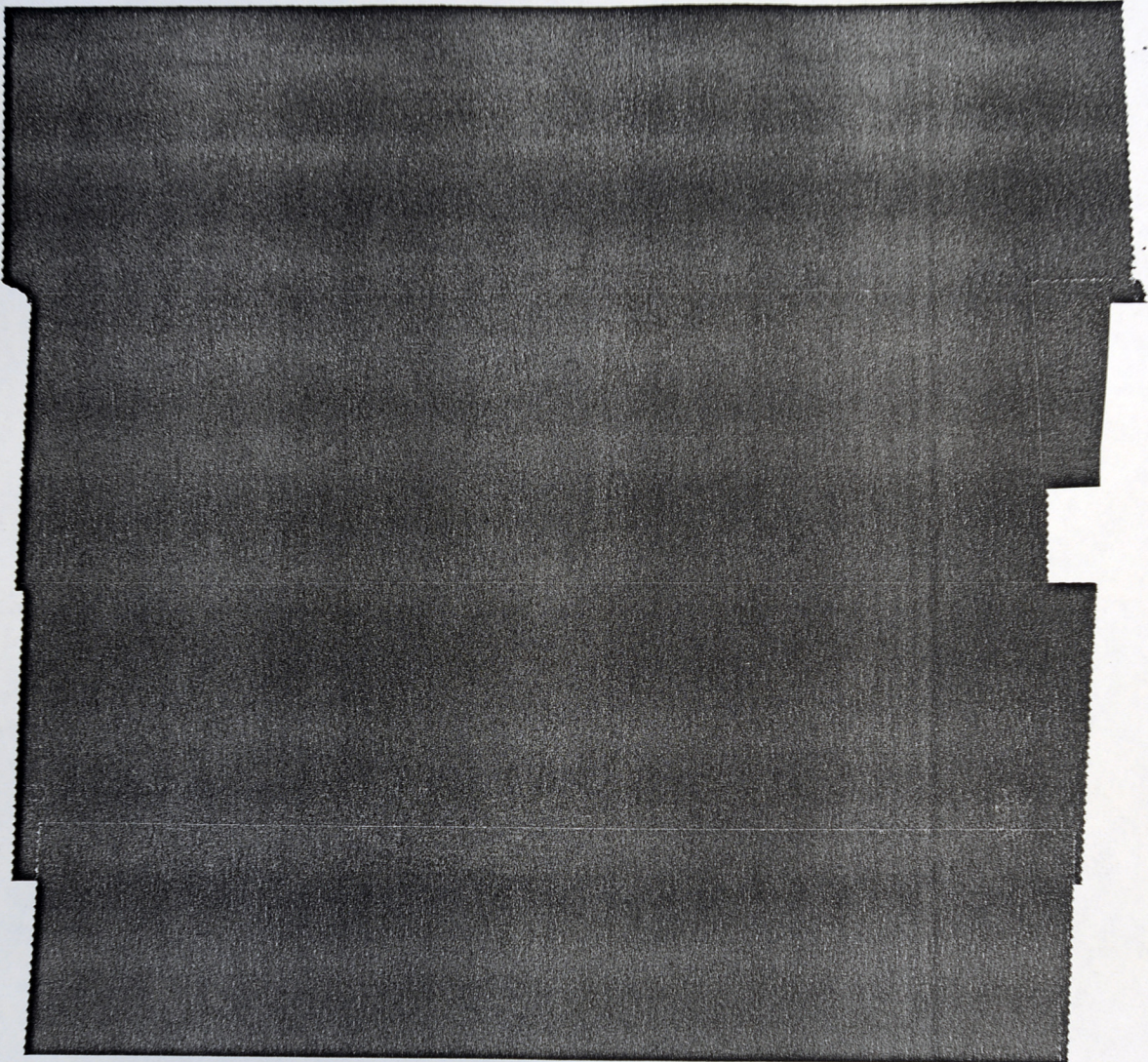
Foreign Minister Genscher picked up this last point, and said the Federal Republic was especially grateful for the support the U.S. had given with respect to German emigration from the USSR. It was gratifying to see that the numbers of Germans allowed to leave the USSR had increased substantially this past year. Genscher cited a figure of 14,000 Germans who had departed the Soviet Union in 1987.

Secretary Shultz said that there had not been a matching emigration of Jews. The German numbers were higher than that of any other national group in the USSR.



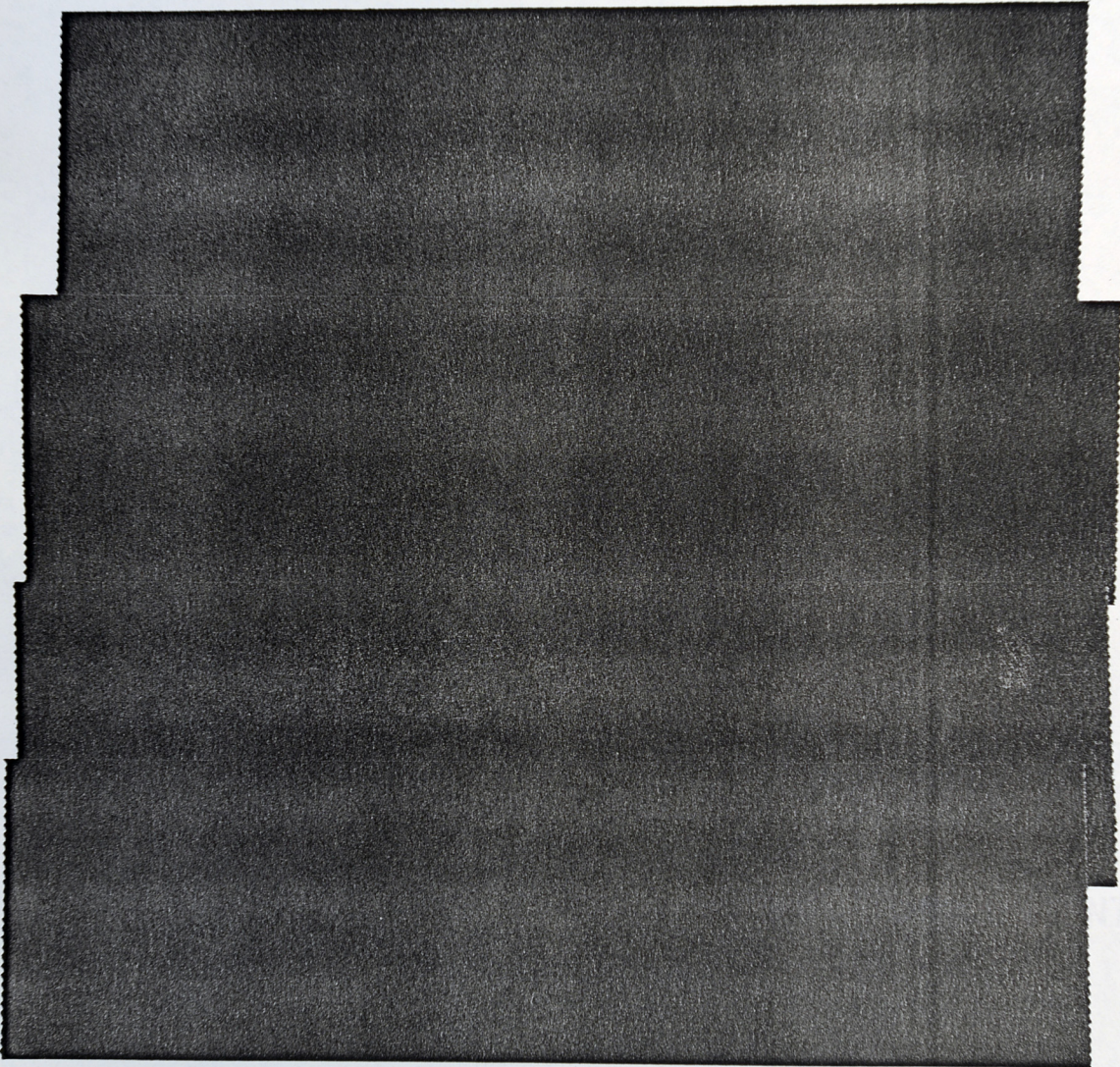
Foreign Minister Genscher observed that one result of the recent Shevardnadze visit to Bonn was an agreement to establish a German-Soviet Committee to deal with humanitarian questions. The group would meet regularly several times a year to solve problems of individuals. Emigration was only one question. There was also the issue of visits to the FRG for those from the USSR with a German ethnic background. Many Germans wanted to continue to live in the Soviet Union but to keep their German national identity as well.

In response to the President's request for more detailed information on Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's recent visit to Bonn, Foreign Minister Genscher said he was convinced, from all that Shevardnadze had said, that the Soviets really wanted to work with the U.S. toward a 50% reduction in strategic weapons and a START agreement in 1988. The Soviets had also made clear their interest in a chemical weapons ban and their readiness to reach an agreement in this area. Shevardnadze privately said his government was waiting for a Western proposal to start conventional stability talks. Foreign Minister Genscher remarked that it would be excellent if the West would, in fact, now focus on this matter.



At this point, President Reagan picked up several themes that Foreign Minister Genscher had touched on. He noted that the Soviets always speak of conventional weapons talks. These must take place, so that a conventional balance in Europe is achieved before we begin to negotiate about short-range nuclear systems. These systems were needed to compensate for the conventional imbalance.

The President also called attention to Gorbachev's book, Perestroika, in which the Soviet leader stated that the existence of two German states suited him "just fine." Reunification was clearly not something that Gorbachev contemplated taking place anytime soon.



There was then an exchange of jokes in which the President recited the only phrase he said he knew in German, and the Foreign Minister told a rambling story about the origins of Communism.

After the subsequent round of laughter, Foreign Minister Genscher said he wished to say a few words about economic issues, because he had come to Washington in his capacity as Foreign Minister of the country holding the European Presidency. He noted there would be a European Community Summit in Bonn in early February. There, an effort would be made to resolve the problems that plagued the Community and had not been overcome at the last EC Summit in Copenhagen.

One major issue would be agricultural subsidies. Most EC members recognized that these had to be cut. The problem was now world-wide in scope and Europe had to do something.

There would be other complicated issues discussed at the February Summit, Genscher said. One would be fats and oils. Germany opposed import taxes on these commodities, and the Dutch and Danes would stand with Germany on this issue. In general, the FRG hoped to re-invigorate the EC over the next six months, and to do nothing which might contribute to protectionist pressures in the U.S. In this connection, the Foreign Minister said the German government had taken a fundamental decision for a widespread de-regulation of telecommunications.


Secretary Shultz interrupted to suggest that it was important to announce this German decision as soon as possible. Could the Foreign Minister mention it to the press today?


Foreign Minister Genscher agreed to make a statement on this subject to the press after his meeting in the White House.

The President wondered if the Foreign Minister also planned to speak to the press on the INF Treaty, outlining German support for ratification.

Foreign Minister Genscher said he planned such a statement today, expressing FRG support for the Treaty and its speedy ratification. He then asked the President whether he was optimistic about his future meeting with the Soviets in Moscow.

The President said he could not help but be a little more optimistic, now that Foreign Minister Genscher had relayed some of the comments Shevardnadze had made in Bonn about START and the priority the Soviets had assigned to their relations with the United States.





The Foreign Minister said he had heard the President was planning to come to Europe in the near future for a NATO Summit. This was welcome news. He recalled that Chancellor Kohl wanted to come to Washington in February, and still hoped that a date for such a visit could be arranged. If somehow things did not work out, the Chancellor very much wanted the President to come to Bonn after the NATO Summit, at least for a few hours, perhaps on March 3 or 4.

General Powell explained that we were still working on a possible visit by Chancellor Kohl to Washington, and hoped to come to closure on dates today.

Senator Baker said he thought a Presidential visit to Bonn after the NATO Summit was not possible.

Foreign Minister Genscher said he wanted to conclude the meeting by thanking the President again for all he had done for German-American relations. The German-American day last year was an enormous success, and it was his understanding that these events would be continued annually.

The meeting ended with some joking about Ambassador Burt being the new "Potato King" in Germany, and Foreign Minister Genscher responding that he was the "Potato King," and that he had simply deputized the Ambassador.

The President laughed and noted there were things in his heritage that also related to potatoes, and said he was pleased that Ambassador Burt and the Foreign Minister were getting on so well together.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

9448 Add On

January 22, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: NELSON C. LEDSKY *NCL*
SUBJECT: MEMCON of the President's Meeting
with West German Foreign Minister,
Hans-Dietrich Genscher, on January 21, 1987

Attached at Tab A is a memorandum of conversation covering the President's conversation with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister of West Germany, held in the Oval Office on Thursday, January 22, 1988 from 0945-1015 a.m.

F
Fritz Ermarth concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you review and approve the attached MEMCON for record retention in NSC files.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachment

Tab A MEMCON

cc: Don Mahley
Eric Melby
Pam Frazier

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
BY *anf*, NARA, Date *3/13/96*