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4322

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
2009-1221-MR
8/21/09

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher
Philip Zelikow, NSC Staff (notetaker)
Kay LaPlante, NSC Staff (stenographer)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 5, 1989, 12:02 p.m. - 12:09 p.m.
Oval Office

The President, after thanking the Prime Minister again for her hospitality during the President's stay in London, said he wanted to discuss the situation in China. (U)

Prime Minister Thatcher congratulated the President on his trip to Europe and called it a marvelous success. On China, she mentioned her particular worry about the future of Hong Kong. (C)

The President called attention to the statement he had issued today (June 5) which, while it might not satisfy critics to the right or the left, deplored the violence and suspended certain military transactions. Before going further, the President wanted to "touch base" with the Prime Minister, knowing her sensitivities about the Hong Kong issue. (C)

Prime Minister Thatcher welcomed the call. She said she would strongly condemn the outrages perpetrated by the government and commented that "people here" were appalled. Hong Kong needed to be reassured; one can imagine the alarm there about these developments. The Prime Minister hoped that China would honor its agreement. If the Chinese did not, there would be no hope at all. She thought the President's actions had been absolutely right. (S)

The President said that he had talked to the U.S. Ambassador in Beijing about his concern for the lives of American students studying in China. There were rumors of a possible move by the military against the universities. The President said he was assured not to worry about the Americans. The President was reluctant to do more at this time because he did not know what was really happening inside the capital. (S)

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2000-0429-F
SCS 6/6/13

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Prime Minister Thatcher observed that there was no one to talk to. (S)

The President agreed. (S)

Prime Minister Thatcher said that there was only a small number of British students in China, about 50-60, and they were all now in the British Embassy. She recalled, however, that, during the Cultural Revolution, the Embassy had not been safe either. (S)

The President said he thought the authorities would find a way to control any danger to foreign students. He also noted the factional divisions within the Chinese army. He assured the Prime Minister that, if the U.S. came across information that affected British interests, especially on Hong Kong, he would let the Prime Minister know about it. (S)

Prime Minister Thatcher commented that she had little information about what was going on, and most of it was from the press. Her impression was that the situation was reminiscent of the old warlord era, with rival groups vying for power. She reiterated her concern about the situation in Hong Kong, noting that the Hong Kong stock exchange had dropped sharply. She said that, the moment either she or the President prepared to move in responding to the situation, they should be in touch with each other. (S)

The President said that he had issued a modest statement. He emphasized the need to preserve the U.S.-China relationship. (S)

Prime Minister Thatcher suggested that the U.S. and the U.K. should condemn the violence, offer to help those who were suffering from it, and try to talk to someone in authority. The Chinese charge' d'affaires in London knew nothing. Until lines of communication were restored, it was hard to know what to do next. The Prime Minister said much was unknown, and uncertain. She thought such a situation was astonishing for a permanent member of the UN Security Council and wondered if UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar might be able to help. (S)

The President said this was possible. He would talk to Secretary Baker and General Scowcroft about it. The situation in China was indeed appalling. (S)

Prime Minister Thatcher thought that Perez de Cuellar might be able to make some "inquiries." (S)

The President speculated about Deng Xiaoping's cancer condition. (S)

Prime Minister Thatcher observed that, when he met with Gorbachev, Deng had not appeared to be a fraction of the person he had been when the Prime Minister had met with him. (S)

The President assured the Prime Minister that he would stay in touch. He wanted the Prime Minister to know that the U.S. was sensitive to the Hong Kong problem. If he saw something of general concern, or specifically pertaining to the Hong Kong issue, he would let the Prime Minister know. (S)

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NOTED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET~~

4322

June 5, 1989

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR G. PHILIP HUGHES

FROM: PHILIP ZELIKOW PZ

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation for the President's Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Thatcher, June 5, 1989

Attached at Tab I is the subject Memorandum of Conversation.

Robert Blackwill concurs.

Recommendation

That you file the Memorandum of Conversation for the President's telephone call to Prime Minister Thatcher on June 5, 1989, attached at Tab I, for the record.

Attachment

Tab I - Memorandum of Conversation

~~SECRET~~
Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines
E.O. 12958, SEC 3.4 (B) September 11, 2006
By DMC NARA, Date 12/31/07

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4322

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
2009-1221-MR
8/21/09

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom

PARTICIPANTS:
~~U.S.~~
The President
Philip Zelikow, NSC Staff (notetaker)
Kay LaPlante, NSC Staff (stenographer)

~~United Kingdom~~
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 5, 1989, 12:02 p.m. - 12:09 p.m.
Oval Office

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The President called attention to the statement he had issued ~~today~~ (June 5) which, while it might not satisfy critics to the right or the left, deplored the violence and suspended certain military transactions. Before going further, the President wanted to "touch base" with the Prime Minister, knowing her sensitivities about the Hong Kong issue. (C)

~~The~~ Thatcher Prime Minister welcomed the call. She said she would strongly condemn the outrages perpetrated by the government and commented that "people here" were appalled. Hong Kong needed to be reassured; one can imagine the alarm there about these developments. The Prime Minister hoped that China would honor its agreement. If the Chinese did not, there would be no hope at all. She thought the President's actions had been absolutely right. (S)

The President said that he had talked to the U.S. Ambassador in Beijing about his concern for the lives of American students studying in China. There were rumors of a possible move by the military against the universities. The President said he was assured not to worry about the Americans. The President was reluctant to do more at this time because he did not know what was really happening inside the capital. (S)

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PER E.O. 13526
2000-0429-F
SCS 6/6/13

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Declassify on: OADR

SECRET

Heavy load.

~~The~~ Thatcher Prime Minister observed that there was no one to talk to. (S)

The President agreed. (S)

~~The~~ Thatcher Prime Minister said that there was only a small number of British students in China, about 50-60, and they were all now in the British Embassy. She recalled, however, that, during the Cultural Revolution, the Embassy had not been safe either. (S)

~~The~~ President said he thought the authorities would find a way to control any danger to foreign students. He also noted the factional divisions within the Chinese army. He assured the Prime Minister that, if the U.S. came across information that affected British interests, especially on Hong Kong, he would let the Prime Minister know about it. (S)

~~The~~ Thatcher Prime Minister commented that she had little information about what was going on, and most of it was from the press. Her impression was that the situation was reminiscent of the old warlord era, with rival groups vying for power. She reiterated her concern about the situation in Hong Kong, noting that the Hong Kong stock exchange had dropped sharply. She said that, the moment either she or the President prepared to move in responding to the situation, they should be in touch with each other. (S)

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~~The~~ President said this was possible. He would talk to Secretary Baker and General Scowcroft about it. The situation in China was indeed appalling. (S)

~~The~~ Thatcher Prime Minister thought that Perez de Cuellar might be able to make some "inquiries." (S)

~~The~~ President speculated about Deng Xiaoping's cancer condition. (S)

~~The~~ Thatcher Prime Minister observed that, when he met with Gorbachev, Deng had not appeared to be a fraction of the person he had been when the Prime Minister had met with him. (S)

~~SECRET~~

Heavy hand

The President assured the Prime Minister that he would stay in touch. He wanted the Prime Minister to know the U.S. was sensitive to the Hong Kong problem. If he saw something of general concern, or specifically pertaining to the Hong Kong issue, he would let the Prime Minister know. (S)

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
2009-1221-MR
JL ~~Illegible~~ 6/17/09

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher
Philip Zelikow, NSC Staff (notetaker)
Kay LaPlante, NSC Staff (stenographer)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 5, 1989, 12:02 p.m. - 12:09 p.m.
Oval Office

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The President called attention to the statement he had issued today (June 5) which, while it might not satisfy critics to the right or the left, deplored the violence and suspended certain military transactions. Before going further, the President wanted to "touch base" with the Prime Minister, knowing her sensitivities about the Hong Kong issue. (S)

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(b)(1) (S)

The President said that he had talked to the U.S. Ambassador in Beijing about his concern for the lives of American students studying in China. There were rumors of a possible move by the military against the universities. The President said he was assured not to worry about the Americans. The President was reluctant to do more at this time because he did not know what was really happening inside the capital. (S)

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Prime Minister Thatcher [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(1) (✗)

The President agreed. (✗)

Prime Minister Thatcher said that there was only a small number of British students in China, about 50-60, and they were all now in the British Embassy. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(1)

The President said he thought the authorities would find a way to control any danger to foreign students. He also noted the factional divisions within the Chinese army. He assured the Prime Minister that, if the U.S. came across information that affected British interests, especially on Hong Kong, he would let the Prime Minister know about it. (✗)

Prime Minister Thatcher [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(1)

The President said that he had issued a modest statement. He emphasized the need to preserve the U.S.-China relationship. (✗)

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Prime Minister Thatcher [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(1)

The President speculated about Deng Xiaoping's cancer condition. (✗)

Prime Minister Thatcher [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(1)

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~~SECRET~~

NOTED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET~~ 4322

June 5, 1989

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR G. PHILIP HUGHES

FROM: PHILIP ZELIKOW PZ

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation for the President's Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Thatcher, June 5, 1989

Attached at Tab I is the subject Memorandum of Conversation.

Robert Blackwill concurs.

Recommendation

That you file the Memorandum of Conversation for the President's telephone call to Prime Minister Thatcher on June 5, 1989, attached at Tab I, for the record.

Attachment

Tab I - Memorandum of Conversation

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines
E.O. 12958, SEC 3.4 (B) September 11, 2006
By DM NARA, Date 12/31/07

~~SECRET~~
Declassify on: OADR

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Telcon	Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. (3 pp.)	06/05/89	(b)(1)	S

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: National Security Council
Series: NSC PA Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Document Number: 8904322

Document Partially Declassified
(Copy of Document Follows)
By JR (NLGB) on 9/13/10

Date Closed:	12/31/2007	**OA/ID Number:**	CF00894
FOIA/SYS Case #:	2003-0366-F	**Appeal Case #:**	
Re-review Case #:		**Appeal Disposition:**	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:		**Disposition Date:**	
AR Case #:		**MR Case #:**	2009-1221-MR(500)
AR Disposition:		**MR Disposition:**	Released in Part
AR Disposition Date:		**MR Disposition Date:**	6/17/2009

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information