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THE WHITE HOUSE

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION  
WITH THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
HELMUT SCHMIDT  
CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

THE PALAIS SCHAUMBURG

12:17 P.M. (Bonn Time)

QUESTION: What made the first meeting run a half hour past the scheduled time?

THE PRESIDENT: The question was, what made the first meeting run 30 minutes past the scheduled time?

I guess the best answer is that we got so intrigued with the discussions on the various important matters that we forgot to look at the clock.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT: Or the coffee was that good.

QUESTION: Did you discuss the Turkey situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I did bring the Chancellor up to date on the very unfortunate development in the House of Representatives last week. I indicated to the Chancellor that we were deeply disappointed and that we were working with some of the leaders in the House of Representatives trying to see whether or not it would be possible in this coming week for the House of Representatives to reconsider the action that it took last week.

We have not come to any conclusion in that regard but we, of course--the Secretary of State and myself--are not only disappointed with the action but I believe the American people will now see the net result of that action with the closing of the American bases in Turkey and with the Cyprus negotiations probably set back.

MORE

I am deeply disturbed and we will maximize our effort, as I told the Chancellor, to try and get a change in the House of Representatives.

QUESTION: What action are you hoping to get?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not come to any conclusion on that because we haven't firmed up any course of action with the Democratic leadership in the House of Representatives and, of course, they are crucial in this situation.

QUESTION: Did the Chancellor make any specific recommendation in the economic field?

THE PRESIDENT: The question is, did the Chancellor make any recommendations in the economic field. The Chancellor and I agreed that it was vitally important that the economic policies of Germany and the European community be integrated with our own economic policies.

We will further discuss in the meetings that are coming up more of the specifics, but we did exchange information as to the circumstances not only in the United States but in Germany, and later today we will probably talk about what we might do for the further improvement of reciprocal efforts in this area.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT: Mr. President, may I add a footnote to that one, please.

(Translated by U.S.I.S.)

The President and I, as well as President Giscard and Prime Minister Wilson, will have the opportunity in Helsinki to hold a special meeting with Foreign Ministers of these four countries, and the discussions of the last few days, especially this morning's discussion, have been particularly useful, serving among other things to prepare for that meeting, and at every opportunity cooperation in overcoming the world economic recession will play a central role.

We European nations and the governments of these European nations know that the world economic recession can only be overcome if it is overcome on an international basis in the same manner by all participants. Above all when it is tackled in the same way by the industrial countries of the world, and that means that the economy of the United States of America--by far the largest, the most efficient and, as far as world trade is concerned, one of the most important economies, and, as far as the finance and currency system of the world is concerned, by far the most important--that overcoming this worldwide recession is only possible if this most important economy of the Western world leads the way.

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The overview, which the American President has personally given us in regard to the latest developments in the American economy, is one of the brightest aspects of the future development. But we don't, by any means, want to exaggerate our hope and our optimism; rather we are both conscious of the fact that we -- together with our other partners -- will still have considerable difficulties to overcome.

QUESTION: Mr. President, are you discussing offset during these talks?

THE PRESIDENT: The question is, are we discussing offset. I am sure that we will, but we haven't come to that point as yet.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have expressed your satisfaction with the result of the CSCE talks in Helsinki. Will you push forward now to get results at last in Vienna in the MBFR talks?

THE PRESIDENT: The MBFR talks in Vienna have been stalled for the last few months. I think once the CSCE meeting has been held in Helsinki we can now concentrate on the MBFR talks and, of course, in my discussions with Chancellor Schmidt we will see how we can coordinate our efforts in this very important area.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:24 P.M. Bonn Time)

(Note: The recording may have missed a question at the beginning.)