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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation between President Bush  
and President Babangida of Nigeria

PARTICIPANTS: President Bush  
President Babangida, Nigeria

DATE, TIME February 7, 1989, 5:15 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

President Bush initiated the conversation with some opening pleasantries, emphasizing that he was calling late in the day and had the flu, but wanted to speak with President Babangida early in the President's term in office. The President also thanked Babangida for his warm message of congratulations upon the President's inauguration.

Babangida said only that the President was welcome.

The President noted that he would be in Tokyo for the Emperor's funeral and perhaps he would meet with Babangida.

Babangida quickly agreed that this would be a good idea.

President Bush fondly remembered his various trips to Africa, including Nigeria. He looked forward to his next visit to Africa.

Babangida also recalled the President's visits to Africa and said that he hoped the President would be able to soon travel to Africa again, including Nigeria. He added that it would be nice if the President could spend more time in Nigeria and have more leisure time.

President Bush said that he felt it would be important to show United States interest in Africa. It was an important area, one that he cared about.

Babangida agreed. He added his appreciation for the President's call and sent his warmest greetings to Mrs. Bush and other members of the President's family. He looked forward to meeting with the President in Tokyo and, perhaps, later in the year in Washington.

The President closed the conversation with his best regards.

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