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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Bilateral Meeting with President Aquino of the Philippines (S)

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.
The President
The First Lady
James A. Baker, Secretary of State
John Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Karl D. Jackson, NSC, Notetaker

Philippines
President Corazon Aquino
Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus
Roberto Villanueva, President of the
Coordinating Committee of the MAI

DATE, TIME February 24, 1989, 9:10 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.
AND PLACE: Akasaka Palace, Tokyo, Japan

President Bush: It is a pleasure to have the opportunity for this meeting. I am very anxious to be helpful in any way that we can. (U)

President Aquino: Thank you for your telephone call, even though we were cut off. I told my Filipino friends about being cut off and they couldn't believe it. (U)

President Bush: We do want to work together. The world is offering **some** good opportunities in East-West relations and one reason **we are here** is to show our continuing interest in Asia. Also, I **want** to say that we strongly favor the MAI. (S)

President Aquino: We received your joint statement with Prime Minister Takeshita on the Multilateral Assistance Initiative. Thank you for your support. (S)

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Secretary Baker: As you know we are implementing a flexible freeze in our budget process. President Bush has directed that the \$200 million for the MAI be spared from normal budget cutting. This has been done at the President's insistence. (S)

President Bush: We have a very tough budget situation, but I will make a deal with you. I won't tell you all of my problems if you don't tell me all of yours. (S)

President Aquino: Could I ask you one favor? Would it be possible for you to appoint a distinguished American to facilitate the MAI by working with Mr. Villanueva who is here this evening? (S)

President Bush: I will be glad to do so and we will try to give you someone with clout. (U)

President Aquino: That would be most helpful. (U)

The meeting ended with an exchange of pleasantries between President Aquino and Mrs. bush. (U)

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