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WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff (Notetaker)
Rachelle Dionne, NSC Staff (Stenographer)

Chancellor Helmut Kohl

DATE, TIME June 7, 1989, 9:46 - 9:52 am EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

Chancellor Kohl, who initiated the call from New York, said he was paying a courtesy call and had no specific problems to discuss. He said he had praised the President during a speech at the Council on Foreign Relations and was also scheduled to give an interview to the New York Times before going on to Harvard and MIT. The Chancellor added that his wife, Hannelore, joined him in extending best wishes to the President and Mrs. Bush. (U)

The President said he very much appreciated the call and the Chancellor's kind words before the Council on Foreign Relations. The President said he was still aglow with the hospitality the Chancellor provided during his visit to Germany. (U)

The President noted that he had a good visit with Pakistani President Bhutto, who will be speaking at Harvard. He noted that she is holding her own despite major problems at home, and that she came across very well in her many meetings in Washington. The President also mentioned his very good visit with President von Weizsaecker. (U)

The President then asked what the Chancellor was saying about developments in China. (U)

Chancellor Kohl replied that the situation was very hard to gauge. The military assault on the Chinese protesters was a dreadful thing, but the Chancellor was warning against forming a

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definitive judgment at this point. For example, he said, there is no way of knowing what Deng Xiao Ping is going to do or who may have usurped power. The Chancellor said that he and the President should stay in close touch until things become clearer in China. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl said that he would call the President next week after Chairman Gorbachev had completed his visit to Bonn on Thursday. The Chancellor wanted to continue the tradition of calling one another on key issues. (Ø)

The President said he would appreciate the call and would be anxious to hear about Gorbachev's visit. The President said he had received a reasonably positive response [to the conventional force reductions initiative] the previous day from the Soviet Ambassador, who said he had come at the request of Chairman Gorbachev. The response did not constitute an acceptance of anything, the President noted, but it was not negative. The President and the Chancellor then concluded the call with the usual courtesies. (Ø)

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