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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Fahd
Interpreter: Sanaa Azim
Notetaker: Sandra Charles

DATE, TIME October 23, 1989, 5:55-6:02 p.m.
AND PLACE The Oval Office

The President telephoned King Fahd concerning the Taif agreement on Lebanon.

The President: Your Majesty, allow me to congratulate you on the historic achievement at Taif. (U)

King Fahd: Thank you a lot. (U)

The President: We know the Lebanese deputies never would have been able to reach this agreement without your leadership, persistence and strength. We feel it is a great service for Lebanon, the Arabs and humanity...your initiative. I wanted to express our full support for the Taif results. The question is would it be better to wait for the formal announcement or should we go ahead with a statement now? (Ø)

King Fahd: Thank you, Mr. President, for your call. There is no doubt that this is a difficult problem. We have shared our opinions together on this, a problem that has lasted 15 years. We are grateful to accomplish something. (Ø)

The President: But should we wait until there is a formal announcement or go ahead with a statement now? (Ø)

King Fahd: Mr. President, the agreement was unanimous except for three representatives who had reservations and made comments. The agreement is already signed, the results are approved. What will happen will happen in Lebanon; we cannot judge it. The U.S. should support this agreement as it was announced. (Ø)

The President: Ok, we'll go ahead and do that. I'll soon be talking to President Mitterrand and the Pope encouraging them to lend their support to this agreement and more importantly to urge Aoun to do so. (Ø)

King Fahd: Mr. President, thank you. We will continue our efforts in Taif and Lebanon. We will continue until we achieve results. We won't give up. (U)

The President: Again, congratulations. We are proud of your leadership. I look forward to seeing you. (U)

King Fahd: Thank you. I appreciate what you have done. Thank you for this call. (U)

The President: Good-bye; my respects to you, sir. (U)