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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Toshiki Kaifu, Prime
Minister of Japan (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan
Interpreter: Frances Seeds
Notetaker: Karl D. Jackson

DATE, TIME April 6, 1990, 7:36 - 7:50am EST
The Oval Office

The President received a telephone call from Prime Minister Kaifu concerning the U.S.-Japan trade discussions.

The President: Hello Toshiki. How are you?

PM Kaifu: Good Morning, George. I'm fine.

The President: I want to tell you how very pleased I am with the good news. We are very grateful to you for your leadership that has made all of this possible.

PM Kaifu: I, too, am extremely delighted that the SII interim assessment has been finalized, bringing bright prospects into our economic relationship.

And I have just heard in detail from Ambassador Matsunaga about his meeting with you, George. I appreciate the time you took to hear his message. I am deeply grateful that you have made public your appreciation of our commitments and have been kind enough to refer to my hard work on these matters.

As you know, I am now faced with the big challenge of persuading people at home of the necessity of implementing these measures. Just this morning I held a press conference in Tokyo to begin this process.

President Bush: I was just reading about your press conference with General Scowcroft. I know it is not popular to take all of these steps. We will try hard on our end on budget reduction. We know SII is a two-way street.

During our last conversation, we spoke about wood products. If we can clear this up next week in Tokyo, we can claim credit for clearing our agenda in record time.

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PM Kaifu: Yes. I understand that Finance Minister Hashimoto will have a one-on-one meeting with Brady on the fringes of the G-7 meeting. This will be another meaningful meeting.

The President: Good. Nick Brady left yesterday and I believe they are meeting tomorrow.

PM Kaifu: Well, the achievements this time have only been possible with your friendship and assistance.

The President: I am grateful to you. I told your distinguished Emissaries, Ambassadors Matsunaga and Owada, this relationship is critical to us. I will go the extra mile to keep it strong, just as you are doing.

PM Kaifu: Well, on the basis of such favorable progress on the bilateral front, I would like to join with you in tackling global problems as part of our global partnership. Please accept my best wishes for a successful Summit.

The President: Thank you. But I must tell you Lithuania is a big cloud hanging over the Summit, but I think Gorbachev wants a peaceful resolution.

PM Kaifu: Well George. Thank you very much. I very much look forward to seeing you in Houston at the Summit. I began this conversation by saying good morning. Actually it is night here in Tokyo, and I think I am going to enjoy a good night's sleep!

The President: You deserve a good night's sleep. You earned it. Let's stay in touch and thank you for this phone call.

-- End of Conversation --

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