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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: One-on-One Meeting with President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo (U)

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.
The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Robert C. Frasure, Director for African
Affairs, NSC (Notetaker)
Alec Toumayan (Interpreter)

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED

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JL 8/21/09

Togo
Gnassingbe Eyadema, President
Ellom-Kodjo Schuppius, Togolese Ambassador
to the U.S. (Notetaker)
(Interpreter)

DATE, TIME July 31, 1990, 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

In response to press pool questions, President Eyadema said that he had tried to mediate in Liberia, but Doe did not want to meet with the rebels. Now it is too late. (U)

The President: You played a very constructive role. Who is the main opponent, Johnson or Taylor? Johnson seems to do most of the fighting. (Ø)

General Scowcroft: He is making the most progress. (Ø)

President Eyadema: Johnson's people are real soldiers. They have overtaken Taylor. Taylor's people are not fit. They are not real soldiers. (Ø)

The President: The US role in Liberia is simple. There is an historical relationship. We have been frustrated since the beginning with Doe. Doe made a bloody start. We want to see the bloodshed averted. But we do not believe that U.S. forces going in is the answer, unless Doe says he will leave, or if our embassy is attacked. I am interested in your feelings. Is there another role for the U.S.? (Ø)

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President Eyadema: Doe should accept to go. The Liberian people want Doe to go. He must listen to the people. When Doe accepts, you could get a transitional government. (Ø)

The President: It will be very difficult. We do not have much confidence in Taylor or Johnson. (Ø)

President Eyadema: They do not understand each other. (Ø)

The President: Is there a tribal difference? (U)

President Eyadema: No. It is a question of leadership. (Ø)

The President: We have got problems here in our own hemisphere. Look at Trinidad. (U)

President Eyadema: The aborted coup? (U)

The President: Not yet. Robertson is a good man. He is under stress. The rebels want him to resign. That faction has no following. It is a terrorist action. There is looting in Port of Spain. (Ø)

At this point, the small session adjourned. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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