MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hussein of Jordan (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
              King Hussein
              Notetaker: C. David Welch

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: August 24, 1990; 4:06 - 4:12 p.m. EDT
                      Kennebunkport

King Hussein initiated the call. (U)

King Hussein: How are you, sir? I have some good news. I wrote
the President in Iraq. I appealed to him to help out on the
guests there. In response, Iraq has stated that the families and
children of all foreigners, including Americans, can leave. I
don't know what that means but it seems to be good news. (U)

The President: That sounds very good. What exactly does it say?
(U)

King Hussein: It is a small message. Our communications with
Baghdad are not very good. It says: The families and children
of all foreigners, including Americans, can leave. (U)

The President: But not of others...? (U)

King Hussein: This is probably a first step. Somehow if the
atmosphere can improve, then the situation may take a turn for
the better. If there is a feeling on both sides, if both said
that no aggression is planned, then maybe one could do more. (U)

The President: The display on television yesterday was
appalling. Maybe he intended differently, but it came out bad.
In addition, ships are still steaming out. Well, I appreciate
the call. I consider it good news. For anybody to get out, it's
good news. We don't call them guests -- we think they are
hostages because there are demands. But this is a good step --
but what should be done is the question. We have the same
problem here as in Lebanon -- one gets out, then they ask "OK,
what will you do?" (U)

King Hussein: He isn't asking but I am suggesting that if a way
can be found to improve the atmosphere, maybe we can help. (U)
The President: We still have a great problem with him holding folks against their will, or staked out someplace. (~)

King Hussein: We will stay in touch. I'm going to try to form a group to work on a solution. (~)

The President: When will this release be announced, do you know? (~)

King Hussein: Shortly. I was just letting you know in advance. (~)

The President: Thanks very much. (U)

-- End of Conversation --