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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with United Nations Secretary
General Javier Perez de Cuellar (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General
of the United Nations
Nancy Bearg Dyke (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME August 28, 1990, 6:15 - 6:22 pm EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned UNSYG de Cuellar concerning the latter's trip to Iraq. (U)

The President: Javier, how are you, my friend? How's the traveler? Nice to talk to you. (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: I am leaving tomorrow. Then I will be in Jordan in the evening. I'm glad to have this opportunity to hear your views before I leave. (U)

The President: I am grateful that you are undertaking this critical mission on behalf of the world community. I am pleased that your skills will be put to this big trust. I hope you make headway in resolving this crisis. There are reports that Saddam Hussein is still locked in to annexation of Kuwait. I am pleased that you are doing this. I'm not particularly optimistic. You know them, though, and will know what to say. Saddam Hussein has said Kuwait is a province now. I really called to wish you well on your mission. (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: I'm not very optimistic. My role is to negotiate the Security Council resolutions. I'll see if there is a way out and to implement the resolutions. Actually, George, when I go, I will be exposing them. If they don't show good will, they will expose themselves to the world. (U)

The President: Will you see Saddam Hussein too? (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: Only Tariq Aziz at this point. What would you like me to keep in mind in my discussions? (U)

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The President: The Security Council resolutions. Also, he wants it to be Iraq versus the US, but it's not that. It would be helpful if you could make the point that it is not just the United States. (Ø)

Secretary General de Cuellar: Certainly. You are kind to wish me well. I don't expect miracles. We will show if they are in good will or not, whether they will implement the resolutions or not. I don't want to raise hopes. (U)

The President: I'll appreciate anything you can do to convince him that using American citizens, British citizens and others as shields is so brutal and increases anger against him. (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: UNSC Resolutions 661 and 664 will be my priorities. I'll discuss them with him. (U)

The President: I'm very proud of the UN. The UN has taken its role seriously, and I am glad we waited to have the Soviets come along on the resolution (on enforcing sanctions). I am so proud of Ambassador Tom Pickering too. (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: We have shown the world that the UN exists. Yes, Ambassador Pickering's diplomacy has been marvelous. (Also comment on President's leadership.) (U)

The President: How are things down in Peru? (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: We have a courageous new President. He is tough and firm. He told me he will implement everything he promised. I told the World Bank. The IMF is delighted with the man. We need to provide food assistance now, including milk. Public opinion shows incredible serenity(?). I would appreciate anything you can do to provide anything -- food: sugar, rice, milk; medicine. (Ø)

The President: Medicine? (Ø)

Secretary General de Cuellar: Medicine, yes. The former regime was a shame. The new president is not a demagogue. (Ø)

The President: We'll see what we can do. Do you want the fact of this call to be private or public? (U)

Secretary General de Cuellar: It would be normal for people to know because you have people there and you are a key figure in this. (U)

The President: I'd like to say I called you and wished you well on your mission. (U)

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Secretary General de Cuellar: Perfect. I would like to be able to say we talked. (U)

The President: We'll tell our press here, and you can of course talk to the UN press and others up there. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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