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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
Notetaker: Adrian Basora, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME September 11, 1990 2:10 -2:18 p.m.
PLACE Oval Office

The President: Brian, how are you? I'm just checking in to tell you about the my meeting in Helsinki. I think our joint statements touched all the right bases. Gorbachev is worried about the use of force, as we all are, but we've agreed on all the right points. As far as food is concerned, we agreed that it had to be based on humanitarian criteria and that we would need to have ~~the right~~ mechanisms to ensure that it reaches the right people. Ozal, ~~Max~~ ^{Mubarak}, and Ehad are very please with the message that our Helsinki meeting sent. (S) ✓

M: I was so impressed with the message that I saw conveyed when I watched your press conference on TV. You have been building an image of measured seriousness over the past 18 months and it came across at Helsinki. Do you have any private insights on Gorbachev's thinking? (S)

P: Gorbachev thought that the sanctions were working. Ehad thought so too and he said something strange. He said that Saddam Hussein will have some difficult decisions to make in the next two weeks. Then he corrected himself. He said that Saddam Hussein was acting strangely of late. (S) ✓

Gorbachev didn't have any other special insights. I feel that he will ^{re}bring his advisors out. He was cooperative in a good mood, but ^{ive} seemed overwhelmed by his problems at home. (S) ✓

M: The fact that you were able to do this kind of a meeting on such short notice shows that there is a new relationship. (S)

P: On arms control, although we did not work on the details, we did agree to give the negotiations a push. (S)

M: Helsinki was very impressive. It should have an impact on Saddam Hussein. (S)

P: How are things at home? (U)

M: You are aware that we have decided to go forward with you on the Mexican trade agreement. (S)

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P: Do you feel that we should have a trilateral agreement? I thought that it was better ~~that~~ we negotiated our own bilateral agreement first and then came back to you. (S)

M: I would be very grateful if we could be at the table from the start. We won't delay things or get in the way. I would appreciate your giving the Mexicans a push on this. I believe that Carla Hills and Jim Baker are in favor of this approach. If Canada were left out, we could get whipsawed domestically. We would have a political problem. (S)

P: I may be behind the curb^{ve}, but I thought that it was best for us to go for^a bilateral agreement~~s~~ first. (S) ✓

M: I don't want to misquote anyone but it was my understanding that Baker and Hills were in agreement. I think that Crosbie talked to Hills. (S) ✓

P: If Jim Baker and Carla Hills agree, there is no problem. Let me look into it. (S)