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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of  
the Federal Republic of Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor  
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff  
Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse

DATE, TIME: October 26, 1990, 4:10 - 4:22 p.m.  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Helmut! How are you, my friend? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Very good, thank you. Are you in California?  
(U)

The President: Yes, out doing some politics, just ahead of our  
Congressional elections. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good luck. (U)

The President: Thank you very much. I am calling on a couple of  
things. First, I was very pleased with your reaction to Saddam  
Hussein's propaganda ploy with the hostages. He is handing these  
people out. Your strong position sets the right example. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I will not give in. Tomorrow we will discuss  
this at the EC Summit. I will make sure we arrive at a just  
principle, and also ensure that all of us ask for the release of  
all hostages, not just our own nationals. Any idea how things  
are going? (Ø)

The President: We believe that the sanctions are starting to  
work, and now more than ever we need to stand united and firm for  
an unconditional withdrawal. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I am wondering whether we shouldn't  
internationally increase the pressure concerning the hostages.  
(Ø)

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The President: I agree -- perhaps through the UN. And the UN should take action on reparations. He is holding hostages and also embassies. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I wonder tomorrow at the EC Summit if we could make some urgent statement demanding the immediate release of all hostages. (Ø)

The President: That's a good idea. On another matter, we are trying to keep the Israel matter separate from the issue of the Gulf, in order not to break up the coalition we have on the Gulf issue. Saddam Hussein is trying to mix the two together. My concern is that if the EC calls for a conference on Palestine, it will have the result of breaking the coalition on the Gulf and of emphasis being shifted to an old issue that has been around for a long time. Of course we have to resolve that issue as well, but we should not mix it up with the Gulf. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I won't do it. Once we have gotten over the Iraq crisis, we have to take the next step and do something about the Palestinian Question. (Ø)

The President: Exactly. I am not ruling out an international conference, but not now. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I'll represent matters tomorrow accordingly, in the way we have talked. At a later time we will have to tackle the Palestinian Question. (Ø)

The President: I agree. One other thing: following our telephone conversation, I sent a letter on the Uruguay Round. I know it is complicated for you, but I hope you will look into it. We have to have agreement at that Round. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I got the letter today, George. I read it with a great level of attention. My position is that we Germans are very interested in a successful GATT round -- interested because we are big exporters, interested for reasons of the Third World, and also interested because we support free trade. Our problem is that the issue has to be resolved within the EC. Today we talked about this with the British Foreign Secretary. I told him we will have to work hard on that in November, because there is no way to delay the December deadline. The issue is very difficult for us because of difficulties for German farmers, but I am going to try to arrive at a sensible middle ground. I will give it my personal attention. Last night there was a meeting in Brussels of the six Christian Democratic heads of government in the EC. We agreed that the six of us would work together. But

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we don't want to do this in Rome. We have to make preparations. But I am fully aware of all your problems and will surely call you within the next 10 days. (Z)

The President: Thank you. I think we are thinking broadly together. I don't know where we stand on my trip, but I look forward to seeing you soon. (Z)

Chancellor Kohl: I am looking forward very much, too. I will see you soon, and before that I will definitely be in touch. (Z)

The President: Thank you.

-- End of Conversation --

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