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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers  
of the Netherlands (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Ruud Lubbers, Prime Minister  
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: October 26, 1990, 4:27 - 4:40 p.m.  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Ruud, how are you? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Excellent. How are you? (U)

The President: Good. I am out in California, but I wanted to call on two matters. I just wanted to say that I was glad you did not fall into Saddam Hussein's propoganda ploy with the hostages. He is handing these people out like candy, and we should have no part of it. We had some groups go out there, but there was no government role. Hans van den Broek's rejection of the idea of travelling to Baghdad sets a wonderful example. Mulroneu told me he had the same offer from Iraq. So did Hans-Dietrich Genscher. So I wanted to congratulate you for your stand. (L)

The other item is that we have a lot of work ahead of us, and not much time, if we are to have a successful Uruguay Round. It is important that we make real progress on agriculture. I worry that if we don't, protectionism will get a new lease on life. We have put forward more flexible positions, and I hope you will do all you can to persuade the EC to do the same. (L)

Prime Minister Lubbers: I agree with you. We have a problem over here. We have a mandate, which is not just our position. The FRG is dragging its feet. I expected it of the French but not the Germans. (L)

The President: I was told that. I just called Kohl, who said he would help. The last point: on the EC meeting, it is my strong

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hope that the EC does not pass a resolution on the Middle East that will blend the Gulf situation together with the Palestine Question. Some day there will be a Palestine conference, which the U.S. will support, but I believe that Saddam Hussein is trying to negate the pressure against him by bringing in the Palestinian issue so the coalition will fall apart. So I wanted to urge you not to go along with any EC call. That's my appeal. (L)

Prime Minister Lubbers: There is a risk going around in Europe - a real risk with the Italians and the French. Kohl understands we can't link the two. We discussed the issue here in a Cabinet meeting. We will take a firm position not to go along. (L)

The President: Good. I'll talk to Andreotti in a few minutes. (L)

Prime Minister Lubbers: One other thing: on the oil problem, we have to think further after the Gulf crisis. I don't know how you feel, but I think it would be worthwhile to talk about new links between oil suppliers and oil consumers, between the Arabs and ourselves -- not now, but at a certain point this link could avoid new tensions in the future. (L)

The President: I'd be interested in hearing your views. I haven't thought about that particular issue, but I think you are right. (L)

Prime Minister Lubbers: I handed you a paper once on energy cooperation. The Russians are interested. We are not looking for a mechanism to fix prices, but to eliminate the extreme fluctuations -- specifically between IEA and OPEC. I think this idea will get more and more support, at least in Europe. It is better than linking the Gulf situation to Jerusalem and the West Bank and all that. (L)

The President: It is true in the Arab world, with the tensions between the haves and the have nots. (L)

Prime Minister Lubbers: And in the Third World, too. So I have a feeling this idea will come again. (L)

The President: I'm interested in knowing more. Let's stay in touch. Will you discuss this in the EC? (L)

Prime Minister Lubbers: We will very carefully discuss it. We want to avoid the idea that we are trying to fix prices. The second risk is that this would be viewed as the solution to the Gulf. It is not that. (L)

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The President: I appreciate the talk. I'll give Andreotti a call. It might help. (Ø)

Prime Minister Lubbers: We will work together. Give my best to Bar. (U)

The President: Will do. Thanks, Ruud. It was nice talking with you. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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