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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10092 Add-on

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan
on December 31, 1990 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan
Interpreter: Frances Seeds
Notetaker: Karl D. Jackson

DATE, TIME: December 31, 1990, 7:00 - 7:13pm EST
AND PLACE: Camp David, Maryland

The President telephoned Prime Minister Kaifu to send New Year greetings. (U)

The President: Hello Toshiki, Happy New Year. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Happy New Year, George. (U)

The President: That's why I was calling to wish you and your family a Happy New Year. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Very glad to hear your fine voice. (U)

The President: We, the Bush family, always count our blessings at this time of year and one of our blessings is our friendship with you, and I want to wish you and your family and the people of Japan the very best for the New Year. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: I am very glad to hear that. (U)

The President: I also want to thank you for what you described regarding Host Nation Support in your December 20 letter. The new agreement will strengthen our alliance. We appreciate that very much and know it was not easy for you. I wish you well and notice you have made some changes in your Government. It looks like you are on top of that too. Good luck there too. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Thank you. With respect to Host Nation Support, based on our discussion in September, when I promised I would do as much as possible, I have done as I said and made the decisions described in my letter. We will get to the 50%-50%

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point on burdensharing in the final year of the five-year defense plan. We hope to complete the signatures between the U.S. and Japan in January and get the agreement approved by the Diet in the next session. We are trying for a maximum effort and this will be helped by maintaining the same Foreign Minister and Minister of Finance, even with the cabinet reshuffle. (S)

The President: Thanks very much. We enjoy working with them very much. I won't keep you because I really called to wish you a happy New Year. I appreciate your help on the Persian Gulf and know it has not been easy for you. I am not sure that we will have a peaceful solution but we will keep trying. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: George, I am very aware that you have exercised great leadership, particularly with regard to your proposal for direct dialogue with Iraq. I sincerely hope a dialogue can lead to peace. As part of this, I wrote a letter to Saddam Hussein. I sincerely hope that your efforts will achieve a peaceful solution. (U)

The President: I know about your letter and thought it was very constructive. The problem is that Saddam Hussein shows no propensity whatsoever for getting out of Kuwait that we can tell but we will keep trying. The January 15 date is a serious deadline. The UN must not fail in this regard. (S)

Prime Minister Kaifu: With the January 15 deadline just around the corner, the world must keep sending Iraq the correct message. (U)

The President: That's a very good point and a very important point. We will be talking about this when we meet tomorrow night with Secretaries Baker and Cheney, and Generals Scowcroft and Powell. We want to give peace every chance. We are talking too much business and I just wanted to say, God bless you and have a wonderful New Year. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Thank you very much. I am looking forward to your visit to Japan. (U)

The President: I want to come and I will come. I will get my people working on the dates. Good luck and thanks for taking my call. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Not at all. Good luck and good health.

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