MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Taro Nakayama, Foreign Minister of Japan (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
    The Vice President
    James A. Baker, The Secretary of State
    Nicholas F. Brady, The Secretary of Treasury
    John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
    Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
    Richard H. Solomon, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific
    Karl D. Jackson, Senior Director for Asian Affairs
     (Notetaker)
    Taro Nakayama, Foreign Minister
    Ryohei Murata, Ambassador to the U.S.
    Koichiro Matsuura, Director General, North American Affairs Bureau, Minister of Foreign Affairs
    Koji Tsuruoka, Embassy of Japan, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 14, 1991, 1:30 - 1:50pm, EST
Oval Office

The President welcomed the Foreign Minister to the Oval Office.
(U)

The President: Thank you for visiting during this hectic time. Please convey my greetings to Toshiki Kaifu and thank him for the close consultation with him that continues to be of great importance to this relationship. This is not just bilateral consultation. He gave me helpful information, reporting on how Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Malaysia feel about the Gulf crisis. Jim Baker can go into more details on this importan~~~ he just finished, but I want to say this matter cannot go on forever and that the U.S. and others with forces in the Gulf are united in their determination to enforce the UN Resolutions.

So, recognizing that Jim Baker will be going into the details, I would strongly urge the maximum cooperation from Japan on the Gulf. (U)
Japan has pledged a substantial amount of money but we may need to ask Japan to do more in the Gulf. I hope there will be receptivity. Collective action in the Gulf benefits everyone.

The only other subject I want to bring up is that I just don’t want to see the Uruguay Round fail. I urge Japan to find a satisfactory solution to the all important agriculture question.

FM Nakayama: Mr. President, we have touched on the Gulf and the Uruguay Round. First, I want to pay the deepest respect to you from the Government of Japan for your endeavor to achieve a peaceful resolution to this crisis. We continue to condemn Iraq for continuing to occupy Kuwait in spite of the UN Resolutions. Although efforts to achieve peace may fail, if use of force is required we, as an ally of the U.S. and a good friend, will fully support your actions. As an ally, we will state this very clearly to the Japanese people as well. Also, we are considering continuing support to the Multinational Force.

The President: Thank you very much. This is good to hear.

FM Nakayama: On the issue of relief for refugees, we will continue to assist these efforts. The UN has drafted a program for the first stage of refugee relief. The total cost of the first stage will be $38 million which will be fully born by the Japanese Government.

You mentioned the Uruguay Round. Including the agricultural issue, we will continue to consult with you.

The President: That’s good. We are working with the Germans and the French to try to get concessions. We must continue in order to get the agricultural issue resolved.

Please tell your Prime Minister that I hope he has not changed his mind and still wants me to come to Japan. I am looking forward to it. I remain uncertain as to the date, but it will happen if it still suits the Japanese side.

FM Nakayama: We are always looking at the March calendar.

The President: We were looking at March also but have not been able to pin down a specific date.
FM Nakayama: I will convey your clear statement to the Prime Minister. It is my clear intention to do so. Hopefully, in the time frame discussed. (✓)

I can assure you we won't change our mind about the invitation. (✓)