MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Toshiki Kaifu of Japan on January 25, 1991 (U)

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 25, 1991, 8:02 - 8:12 am, EST
The Oval Office

Prime Minister Kai situation. (U)

The President: Go

This call took place on Jan 24, not Jan 25. (U)

Prime Minister Kai: efforts. Day and I your position. Yes from New York to br As a result, I have with Secretary Brad billion. As reques will emphasize the

The leaders of the I amount. This might Starting tomorrow, w decision and I will persuad, insist, and appeal for the contribution. We must pass a supplementary budget to obtain the resources. (U)

Today, we had an LDP convention. I appealed to the participants and told them we must raise taxes. We must appeal to the Japanese public for understanding. This is our obligation to the international community. Already the Socialists and the Communists are voicing opposition. In Parliament, we will seek the understanding of the Japanese people. (U)

In addition, to help evacuees repatriate, we will send two civilian aircraft to Cairo and, in addition, aircraft of our SDF will be sent by amending our government decrees. (U)
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Prime Minister Kaifu telephoned the President concerning the Gulf situation.

The President: Good morning, Toshiki. How are you?

Prime Minister Kaifu: Good morning, George. I appreciate your efforts. Day and night I will always be on your side and support your position. Yesterday, Finance Minister Hashimoto returned from New York to brief me on his meeting with Secretary Brady. As a result, I have made a decision based on his conversation with Secretary Brady. We have decided on our contribution of $9 billion. As requested, I have made an official decision and I will emphasize the necessity of our contribution.

The leaders of the LDP and I met this morning and decided on the amount. This might mean that we would need to have higher taxes. Starting tomorrow, we will have a Diet Session. I will persuade, insist, and appeal for the contribution. We must pass a supplementary budget to obtain the resources.

Today, we had an LDP convention. I appealed to the participants and told them we must raise taxes. We must appeal to the Japanese public for understanding. This is our obligation to the international community. Already the Socialists and the Communists are voicing opposition. In Parliament, we will seek the understanding of the Japanese people.

In addition, to help evacuees repatriate, we will send two civilian aircraft to Cairo and, in addition, aircraft of our SDF will be sent by amending our government decrees.
I sincerely hope the Gulf crisis will be solved in accordance with the UN Resolution at the earliest date possible. We in Japan are determined to do as much as possible.

I would like to express my deepest condolences and deepest sympathies to the bereaved families.

I also hope that Barbara Bush is recovering from her injury. My wife is very worried too.

The President: Thank you for this very, very important and much appreciated phone call. Thank you also for considering Barbara. She is doing fine and I will tell her your wife was asking after her.

We are concerned about the loss of life of our fliers and, therefore, very much appreciate your condolences on that account.

I am very, very grateful for the magnificent support from your Cabinet and the LDP, and hope you will be successful in persuading the Japanese people. I know you will be.

The airplanes -- both civilian and SDF -- which you mentioned, will be widely appreciated, not only in the U.S., but by all the coalition partners.

I would like your permission to mention this phone call so that I can thank the Japanese Prime Minister and the Japanese people before the day is over.

Prime Minister Kaifu: Please do so. I, myself, have just announced the decision on television.

The President: Thank you ever so much for this magnificent contribution. It will be well received multilaterally and, needless to say, by the people of the United States. I will make sure every member of the Congress will know how I feel about this.

-- End of Conversation --