

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Kohl of Germany (U)

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

DATE, TIME: January 24, 1991, 11:09 - 11:21 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

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

Chancellor Kohl: Good, thanks. How are you? (U)

The President: Fine. Helmut, the other day you mentioned the question of "responsibility-sharing" for Desert Storm, and I appreciated your comment that you are "more than ready" on financial support. I just wanted to follow up with a specific request. I know that Jim, when he met with you, said that we would be reassessing the request he made if hostilities broke out. I also understand that Nick Brady gave Minister Waigel a figure, and Jim Baker in Bonn gave a figure of \$1 billion. As we look at the overall figures, what we would firmly request is \$6 billion for the first three months of 1991. That would include the \$1 billion that Jim Baker mentioned. The request is in line with the percentage that Germany contributed very generously to the 1990 Desert Shield operation. We have made similar requests of Japan and the Gulf states, and today Kaifu announced a Japanese pledge of \$9 billion. It still has to go through his legislature, but he is firmly committed. (S)

Germany has been criticized in our Congress, as you know. We have been standing up for Germany and will continue to do so. Congress criticizes everybody. But if you can come through, it would be very good for German-U.S. relations. I don't want to sound unappreciative, because we are very appreciative of all those who have contributed during this historic effort. I know these are difficult times for you financially with your other obligations, but what we are doing is for the benefit of the entire world -- stabilizing energy prices and assuring peace in the world. So that is where we stand. The request is for our operations, not for the Front Line states, where you have made an

important contribution. The move toward Israel that you mentioned was very thoughtful and very helpful. I hope it was well received. I know that Minister Waigel and Brady talked, but since you mentioned that you would help I wanted to follow up. I firmly urge your consideration. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: George, let me say that Waigel only gave me a fairly short oral briefing. I will see him in a longer meeting tomorrow. I jotted down what you told me. I will think about it and get back to you very soon. As you said, we want to be helpful and will certainly do that. As far as I understand, the Bundeswehr is also in the process of supplying equipment. I would like to know how far that is included in this calculation. (S)

The President: I think that was in 1990 and was not included in this request. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: I will look at the figures and get back to you. (S)

The President: I am not unsympathetic to your situation, but I would appreciate it if you get back to us as soon as possible. The mission is going well. It is not going to be a many month operation. It is not going that way, in our view. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: Is there anything new? (S)

The President: No, nothing new. The Patriot missiles seem to be working well against the indiscriminate bombing of civilians by the Scud missiles. Many of the most serious targets in Iraq, such as the nuclear capability of this madman, have been damaged or destroyed. Saddam seems to be digging in as much as ever -- not only his forces but his mental attitude. But our general officers and the Secretary of Defense feel we are moving according to plan. We will be moving to soften his armor. Maybe Saddam will begin to get the message. So far he has not. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: How long do you think it will take until ground forces start to participate? (S)

The President: I don't have a specific date. It would not begin within the next week. We need more time. I would appreciate your holding this confidential, of course, but I don't think it will be before February. But at that juncture, if we do our work now, it won't be a long, drawn out campaign. One reason for the high costs we are all putting in is the high cost of munitions, which have been so effective. In any event, I would appreciate your soulful consideration of that request. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: George, let me say again that I promised this and will stick to my promise. I will check into it.

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3

The President: Thank you, sir. Good-bye. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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