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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Toshiki Kaifu of Japan on February 23, 1991 (S)

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

DATE, TIME: February 23, 1991, 7:20 - 7:31 a.m. EST  
AND PLACE: Camp David, Maryland

The Prime Minister telephoned the President concerning the situation in the Gulf. (S)

The President: Toshiki is that you? (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Good Morning George. This is Toshiki speaking. The reason I called you today is to pay my respects to your day-to-day effort to attain peace. I believe the six-point proposal of the Soviet Union is insufficient and that what is important is the immediate and unconditional implementation of withdrawal. I support your decision of yesterday, and in order to avoid tragedy in human terms, I will continue to urge the Iraqis to put into action a withdrawal in response to your call of yesterday. (S)

Today, we called in the Iraqi Ambassador to convey our message to be passed to Saddam Hussein. We also used our Ambassador to the UN to convey our message to Saddam Hussein through his Ambassador at the UN. (S)

What is important is to further consolidate the solidarity of the international community so that we can have a fair and principaled solution. Everyday, in the Diet, we have been debating against the opposition parties how to achieve our share of responsibility. We should maintain contact between the U.S. and Japan so that we can attain peace together. (S)

The President: I appreciate the position you have taken in the Diet. (S)

We will maintain very close contact now and when the war is over. (S)

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While Tariq Aziz was talking peace in Moscow, Saddam Hussein was ordering Kuwaiti oil fields set on fire. Now, 190 wells are on fire in a scorched earth policy. My own view, Toshiki, is that President Gorbachev is not making mischief but is trying to solve the problem. We have no problem with what Gorbachev is doing at all. You are 100% correct when you say that his proposal is still insufficient. (S)

I am not optimistic that Saddam Hussein will comply with the deadline for withdrawal that I announced yesterday, after much consultation with our coalition partners. (S)

If land forces must be used, I can guarantee the world it will be quick. It will not be prolonged. I still hope Iraq will comply but I cannot report to you any optimism. I appreciate very much this phone call and have never doubted, in a sometimes contentious Diet debate, that Japan would come through to help us. Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank you for your support. This world solidarity you mentioned is very important. (S)

Prime Minister Kaifu: George, I am very glad to hear your voice, and am very encouraged, and hope you will keep up the efforts to meet our common objectives. (S)

The President: Goodbye Toshiki, my friend. (U)

Prime Minister Kaifu: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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